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EDITOR'S LETTER



Go with the FLOW

Choose the right sink and you'll bring harmony to your kitchen. The classic styling of the Egerton by Shaws of Darwen, priced from £968. **01254 775 111, shawsofdarwen.com**



I truly believe November is a beginning not an ending. This reflective month is a great time to go inwards and remind ourselves that happiness really is an inside job. This month's properties reflect how personal our journeys to our dream homes are and how they reflect the best of us.

Turn to page 22 to find out more. I hope you'll also be inspired by the beautiful blend of midnight and copper in our decorating pages, page 76, and enjoy browsing some designer pieces in Style Edit from page 61.

Susan Dickerson

EDITOR

This month Period Ideas has been: **ENJOYING** choosing some Christmas presents early; **IMPROVISING** in the kitchen with a lime and orange drizzle; **GETTING USED** to wearing a coat on the morning dog walk; **DISCOVERING** the therapeutic benefits of knitting; **PLANNING** a trip to the V&A to admire the vivid Fabrics of India exhibition.

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HOME STYLE

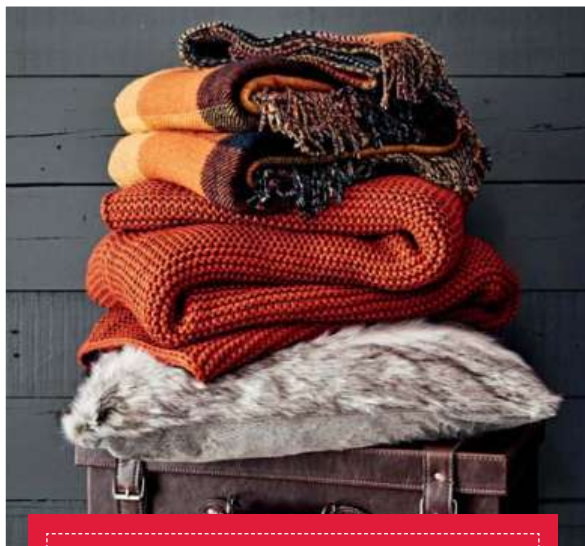
*Keep up to date with the latest designs
and happenings this month*



SEAT CHIC

There's nothing better than snuggling up on the couch on a cold November night and this small Hunter sofa in Moon Earth Raspberry is ideal for keeping you cosy. Priced at £1,835, it features pretty ornate feet and its warm hue will bring seasonal style into your abode.

0800 230 0048, sofaworkshop.com



WRAP UP

Escape the chilly weather with Sainsbury's comfy textiles from the Wilderness collection, priced from £16 each. With chunky knit throws, highland-themed blankets and faux fur pillows, the range has everything you need to keep warm this winter. 0800 636 262, sainsburys.co.uk



TIME TO SHINE

With bonfire night set to be a blast, trendy copper accessories are rising up the style ranks for November. Add a hint of glamour to your interiors with this copper-plated bell-shaped hanging lamp, £59, from Out There Interiors. 020 8099 7443, outthereinteriors.com



CHECK-MATE

While layering up is the best way to battle the elements when you head outdoors, doing the same with your décor will create a comfortable and stylish living space. This multi-check throw, £25 from Very, will complement any sofa or bed.

0844 8222 321, very.co.uk

SOFT TOUCH

A combination of subtle furs, grey tones and orange details is the perfect blend for the cooler months, so take a look at the Tundra collection at George Home for a beautiful range of home furnishings. Find out more about the range by calling 0800 952 3003 or visiting direct.asda.com

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Invigorate your interiors this month with a fresh Scandi scheme. Embrace white-washed woods and neutral tones for a Nordic look in your abode, such as this Camille bedstead from Furniture Village. Call **0800 804 8879** or visit **furniturevillage.co.uk**



ALL FIRED UP

There's nothing like a bright, crackling fire in the centre of your living room to create an inviting and homely space and thanks to Not On The High Street, you can add trendy accessories to your fireplace, such as with this vintage kindling box, priced at £33. **0345 259 1359**, **notonthehighstreet.com**



CATTLE CATCH

Bring the outdoors in with Abigail Ahern's grey suede highland cow head, £75, from Debenhams. Perfect for adding a striking heritage statement to your décor, call **0844 800 8877** or visit **debenhams.com**



DIARY DATES

Get set for festive feasting with a trip to the Christmas Craft and Food Fair at Buckland Abbey, Garden and Estate, in Devon. Taking place between 14th-15th November, you'll find over 40 stalls exhibiting the finest local produce and some great gifts for friends and loved ones. Call **01822 853 607** or visit **nationaltrust.org.uk** for more information.

WINTER WARMER

With the party season on its way, you'll need some handy homewares to help you host, such as this Spitalfields nest of three tables, £149.99, from Dunelm. Whip them out at soirées for nibbles, or place them next to a sofa for some extra surface space for your drinks.

0345 165 6565, **dunelm.com**



Decorating with...

WINTER CHIC

Embrace this season's frosty chill with a cool palette of grey and white hues parred with glossy, metallic accessories

Edited by **JESSICA PANTON**

While the sight of grey clouds rolling over a wintry sky can be enough to dampen your spirits, channelling this brooding colour scheme indoors is said to be good for your soul. A home can be a sanctuary, a shelter, a workplace, or all of these, so it's crucial for your interiors to be compatible with your way of life. A blend of neutral shades can be quickly updated for a contemporary look, or played down for a more traditional feel and will set the scene for the festive season ahead.

GOING GREY

A combination of classic white and grey shades encourages a balanced space, but the tone you choose to lead with is also important. Featuring whiter shades as your main backdrop will give you a blank canvas to work with, ideal for injecting elements of personality and colour. It will also create a clean, minimalist feel, evoking a calm ambiance which will help to maintain a clear mind. Opting for stronger grey shades will promote a harmonious home. It is a practical base colour if you wish to combine some warmer pigments in your interiors too, such as brown, lilac and pink. Both white and grey are simple, versatile shades so you can easily adapt your décor with the changing seasons.

SILVER LINING

Once you've decided on how you're going to apply your palette, you can add accessories which suit your home's style. Break up white areas with bold black items for a monochrome theme, or if your property is more traditional, display rustic blonde wood pieces, brushed metals and pale painted furniture. Layer with textures, such as multi-tone stripe blankets and furs, to introduce an element of comfort. Or, if you prefer a more modern scheme, speckle your interiors with glossy items and decorative accessories to break up the theme with a hint of glamour. Decorate with faceted designs, mirrors and cut glass, ideal for making a stunning centrepiece, while the reflective surfaces will expand the grey and white areas to create the illusion of spaciousness.

Catherine Lansfield cushion, £12; Evie cushion, £15; set of three geo vases, £25; round faceted mirror, £99, all Very. 0844 8222 321, very.co.uk

GREY SCALE

Martin Aveyard, Design Director at Bronte by Moon, reveals how to decorate with the winter tones that inspired its stunning ranges of soft furnishings

"Crisp winter whites and tonal greys are an ideal colour palette for this festive season. To achieve a sense of warmth, choose grey-based undertones with a brown (rather than blue) base to enhance that cocooning effect and eliminate the feeling of the room becoming too cold. Bronte by Moon's range of soft furnishings is ideal for bringing in those cosy finishing touches with a casually draped woollen throw, alongside some large cushions, completely transforming the room. Introduce natural bleached woods and wools and complete the look with contrasting glossy metallic and luxe white accessories. These simple updates will work with existing furniture to create the perfect winter wonderland."

08707 437 410, brontebymoon.co.uk

LSA column vase, £10;
Deknudt grid mirror,
£435; Eichholtz carpet
caton grey, from £1,000,
all Occa Home.
0330 363 0330,
houseology.com



MONOCHROME MAKEOVER

Discover how to combine different elements of design with these powerful hues to create a complementary look in your abode

- **Texture is key** when working with a colourless scheme. When it comes to furniture, place sleek woods and metals next to softer pieces, such as sofas, as this will add variation, while the contrasting surfaces will prevent a harsh look.
- **Shape is crucial** to creating interesting and visually enticing interiors. Inject some design detail by combining soft curves and rounded accessories with some clean straight lines to bring a room to life and create a striking focal point.
- **Tone can be the pivotal factor** in how bright or dark you make your room. Consider how much natural light filters into your space, as white can help enhance the brightness of a room, while grey will not reflect the light in the same way. Avoid blue-grey hues in north-facing rooms and small spaces as they will make the room feel too cold.

Swatch WATCH

The Colours of London celebrates the glorious history and design supremacy of the most beautiful and varied city on earth. All available from Mylands of London.
020 8670 9161,
mylands.co.uk



Chambray housewife pillowcase, £4.99; Chambray Oxford pillowcase, £5.99; Chambray square cushion, £9.99; Chambray double duvet cover, £19.99; double Duke headboard with Accor dark grey fabric, from £125, all Dunelm. 0345 165 6565, dunelm.com

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Site to see

If you're keen to plant some winter tubs and baskets, head to potterandrest.co.uk and find out this and much, more more. As well as stocking a smashing range of plants and gardening products, this online gardening centre offers free advice and assistance to help your outside space look great all year round.

Arizona Metal & Wood
Dining Table, £399, Tesco.
0800 323 4050
tesco.com

Bloom of the month PERLARGONIUMS



This month when its damp outside you can still enjoy pretty flower bulbs and plants indoors.

Try tub plants such as cheerful perlargoniums (more commonly known as geraniums) which need very little water. Perlargoniums are a large, diverse group of mostly evergreen and tender plants used as bedding or houseplants. True geraniums are hardy herbaceous plants. The name geranium

comes from a Greek word *geranos*, which means crane or stork. It has five petals and has a wide range of symbolism attached to it.

It's true that horseshoe geraniums indicate folly in the Victorian language of flowers but the plant can also mean elegance, gentility and a peaceful mind. The oak leaf geranium symbolises true friendship. Geranium oil was prized by the ancients and has a rose-like scent.

Live & learn

Treat yourself to a short course and learn some new skills in Suffolk

If you're looking for inspiration for Christmas presents already, then treat yourself or a friend to a course at Assington Mill, near Sudbury in Suffolk.

The Mill offers short one to three day course on over 50 different topics from bee-keeping to felt making. You can tuck into home-made and locally-sourced food. Gluten-free meals and cakes are a speciality and the owners Bob Cowlin and Anne Holden are happy to answer any queries on 01787 229 955, or visit assingtonmill.com

Seasonal shopping Garden Journal

The latest news, inspirational ideas and expert advice for your great outdoors

CELEBRATE A GENIUS

Next year marks the 300th anniversary of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's birthday, so look out for a range of events to celebrate one of Britain's best-loved landscapers. Channel 4 is leading the way this autumn with a three-part documentary presented by renowned gardener and horticultural expert Alan Titchmarsh. The series will reveal Brown's plans for Belvoir Castle, the ancestral home of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland, which are now being brought to life. Filming began in July with Titchmarsh visiting Fenstanton in Cambridgeshire, where Brown was lord of the manor in the late 18th century. For more details of events to mark next year's tri-centenary visit capabilitybrown.org



Walk this way

Stay active and refreshed this season by enjoying some spectacular landscapes that seem to look their best with a sprinkle of frost. The National Trust has plenty of great places for you to explore during the winter months. See grounds from a new perspective

and you're sure to earn a lovely slice of cake and a hot drink afterwards in the tearoom! Discover more a special place near your home by visiting the National Trust's website at nationaltrust.org

RETAIL THERAPY

Bring the garden in with some practical accessories



WASH & GO

Join the green welly brigade with these citrus and herb luxury soaps, which come in their own very special shoebox priced £23.95. **0845 548 0210**, annabeljames.co.uk

HEDGE YOUR BETS

Give a hedgehog a safe home in a quiet corner of your garden with this deluxe house priced £99.95. **01494 874 101**, clareloves.co.uk



SIGN ON

A charming vintage sign which will look good in a country kitchen or conservatory, this is the perfect gift for the gardener in your life, £7. **0845 130 8229**, tch.net



GROUND FORCE

A set of three vintage watering cans is ideal for a special occasion, £225. I&JL Brown, **020 7736 4141**, brownantiques.com



CLEAN SWEEP

Remember to enjoy your five-a-day with this jazzy tea towel, £4.99. **01707 257 175**, oakroomshop.co.uk

BRANCHING Out

Editor of Grow Your Own magazine, Claire Holmes, shares her tips on keeping your fruit trees happy this autumn



EXPERT ADVICE

For more growing tips and ideas, pick up the next issue of GYO on 2nd October and get two free packets of seeds.



"Trugs will be groaning under the weight of harvested produce this month, but while it's easy to get caught up in the kitchen thinking of new ways to use your gluts, remember that autumn can be just as important as spring in terms of starting new crops. Nights are drawing in and temperatures are falling – both of these are natural indicators that remind us to think of next year. Gardening is a never-ending cycle and as soon as one crop finishes, you should be thinking about what can go in its place.

October is a good month to plant onions, shallots and garlic and you can also sow extra-hardy varieties of plants not usually started until the beginning of spring, such as broad

beans. This early sowing allows these plants to gain a little bit of height before the weather becomes colder and growth slows right down. Come early spring, when conditions are more favourable, they will spurt forward once again, meaning they will be ready many weeks before their later spring-sown counterparts.

The key with this sort of overwintered veg is to ensure that they aren't damaged by winter conditions. Timing your sowings carefully and being prepared with horticultural fleece if temperatures get too cold is crucial. It's also important to choose hardy types of these veg – Aquadulce Claudia and Super Aquadulce are both good varieties to sow in autumn."



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GARDEN GOSSIP

Sarah Raven



The queen bee of the British gardening scene reveals her planting advice for the month and shares a fantastic offer with you

Winter is feeling scarily close, but that does not mean hanging up your gardening gloves and the end of any sowing. If you're a salad and herb lover like me, there's still time to sow a good range of things to keep you in homegrown food right through until next spring. If you want to keep everything close by, so you don't need to trudge down the garden in the foul weather, get yourself a collection of polystyrene fish crates or slatted wooden boxes from your local fishmonger or greengrocer. Make some holes in the bottom for drainage and fill them with decent seed compost.

For herbs, you can still sow and grow chervil, a hardy annual which bolts very quickly in the hot and dry, producing much better in the cold and grey of winter. It has a fresh, soft aniseed flavour, perfect in salads and added to a classic French omelette. Chervil's essential oils are very versatile, so

this is best eaten raw or hardly cooked so add to the omelette as you take it off the heat.

Coriander is another herb happiest in cool, damp conditions rather than scorching. We often use it in Asian cooking and so associate it with heat, but counter-intuitively, that's not what it likes. It runs to flower and seed in an instant in the summer, but is cut-and-come-again and a prolific leaf producer if sown at this time of year.

Give the flat-leaved parsley, Giant of Napoli a go too. It will sit happily under a dusting of snow, as will many delicious salad leaves – Salad Rocket, Mizuna, Red Giant Mustard and the new potato tasting Mustard Red Frills. These herbs and salad leaves will give you punchy tastes for winter salads, and it's good to have the odd cut-and-come-again lettuce to give salad bowls bulk and extra crunch. The best winter lettuces for sowing now are Merveille de Quatre Saison with a lovely, waxy sheen and beautiful copper red

colour, as well as the classic Green Salad Bowl, and the surprisingly hardy Reine de Glace or Queen of Ice. Its name hints at its toughness in habit, but not in texture.

With all, sow them into gutter pipes now for transplanting outside or into pots and crates in three weeks' time. Sow salad leaf seed and chervil three inches apart and then thin/plant out at six inches; sow lettuce, coriander and parsley six inches apart and thin/plant out at a foot. Winter as well as summer is a good time for delicious, strong-tasting salads, good for your health and with this selection, they'll never be dull.

Sarah Raven has been running cooking, flower arranging, growing and gardening classes at her East Sussex farm since 1999 and has presented on BBC Gardeners World. She also has her own website, where you can purchase flowers, seeds, kits and view a full list of courses. sarahraven.com

Exclusive READER OFFER

Period Ideas readers can get a free packet of Mizuna seeds! Simply quote offer code **PD15NOV** when placing your order. Please note that P&P of £2.50 (for seed only orders) is payable. To make a purchase, call **0345 092 0283** or visit sarahraven.com. Valid until 30th November 2015. Offer is subject to availability and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. For full terms and conditions, visit sarahraven.com/terms-and-conditions

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CLEARVIEW STOVES

Period Ideas celebrates the best in British interiors

Since the early 18th century the stove has enjoyed a fascinating history, but during the 1980s the demise of coal and increasing concerns about pollution inspired Clearview Stoves to develop a new, cleaner alternative. Celebrating almost 30 years in business, it is one of the UK's leading manufacturers of exceptional wood-burning stoves, considered by many to be the finest available.

The company cares passionately about the environment and believes wood is the perfect energy source. Trees provide food and shelter for wildlife, add beauty to our lives, and provide us with a near carbon neutral fuel. Wood also enables us to take control of our heating, without the worry of power failures or rising costs of oil and gas. The sophisticated technology used to make Clearview Stoves has made burning timber cleaner, safer and more efficient than ever before.

Heat and efficiency may be the most important considerations, but the view of the fire is vital. There's no doubt that watching a real fire inspires a feeling of well-being. Clearview ensures its stoves will always provide wonderful views of the flames behind exceptionally large and strong, crystal-clear glass windows. A unique hot air wash system produces fascinating flame patterns bringing an elegant focal point to

a room. Unlike conventional stoves, Clearview's models offer excellent controllability and an air distribution system resulting in hours of clear fire viewing, without sooting or tarring of the stove windows, making frequent cleaning unnecessary.

Many period properties have an open fireplace, and the benefit of installing an enclosed Clearview wood-burning stove is that the rest of the chimney is sealed, stopping warm air being sucked from the room. Compared to open fireplaces, a Clearview stove offers five times more heat and will burn for far longer periods unattended.

From a state-of-the-art Shropshire factory, Clearview's skilled workers have been designing and producing a range of highly efficient, simple to use stoves, since 1987. The Clearview Vision 500 Wood-burning Stove was the first multi-fuel stove approved for burning wood and authorised fuel in UK smoke control areas. The company's latest range offers nine styles with a choice of seven colours in various sizes to suit virtually every home heating requirement. From the smallest in the range, the Pioneer 400, the highest specification small stove ever built, to the Clearview 750, the largest option, ideal for open plan areas, means there is a model for every home.

Clearview Stoves ensure its wood-burning stoves will always provide wonderful views of the flames behind their crystal-clear glass windows.



**Great British Food's
Natasha Lovell-
Smith says...**

"British fruit varies in flavour from super sweet to tart depending on the variety. Plums are the ultimate preserving fruit and can be used to make beautiful jams, pickles and chutneys, but it's hard to beat an old fashioned plum crumble with lashings of cream"

YOU'LL NEED:

For the crumble

- 60g plain flour
- 60g caster sugar
- 50g unsalted butter
- 50g cobnuts, roughly chopped (or hazelnuts if you can't get cobnuts)
- 75g Jordans Crunchy Oat Granola Raisin and Almond

For the fruit

- 800g cherry plums, stoned and cut into quarters
- 50g caster sugar
- 1 tbsp plain flour



Recipe courtesy of Jordans Cereals, jordanscereals.co.uk

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Kitchen Hub

3 OF THE BEST... KITCHEN SCALES

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MEASURE UP
Vintage shop scales, £49.95, [Dotcomgiftshop](http://Dotcomgiftshop.com).
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dotcomgiftshop.com

WEIGH IN
Typhoon Italian Job Bella scales, £29.50, Red Candy. 0121 2247 728, redcandy.co.uk



KEEPING COUNT
Vintage blue mechanical scales, £34.95, Kitchen Craft. 0121 604 1111, kitchencraft.co.uk

Edd Kimber's cherry plum crumble

1 Preheat the oven to 180°C (gas mark 4). For the crumble topping, place the flour and sugar into a medium bowl and mix together. Add the butter and rub into the dry mixture until it resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Add in the cobnuts and Jordans Crunchy Oat Granola Raisin and Almond and stir to combine. At this point, the crumble mixture can be covered and refrigerated or frozen until needed and it will keep for up to a week (if frozen, there is no need to

defrost before using, just use exactly as the recipe states).

2 For the fruit, place the plums into a bowl and mix together with the sugar and flour, trying to coat the fruit equally. Place into a small roasting dish and sprinkle the crumble mixture on top. Bake for 35–40 minutes or until the crumble is golden brown and the fruit is bubbling. Serve hot with custard, cream or a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

WHAT TO DO WITH... Cranberries



While this festive berry is best paired with roast turkey, brussel sprouts and gravy, its sweet and sour taste makes it the must-have ingredient of many mains and desserts. Cranberries, with their deep red hue and succulent juices, are perfect for picking in November

and are full of antioxidants which offer protection from tooth cavities, urinary tract infections and inflammatory diseases. As well as a handy health-boost, these wild berries are a diverse food to feast on as raw, fresh and dried varieties all make great snacks, while scattering them over vegetables or salads will bring another element of flavour to your meal. Add a fruity twist to any bake by incorporating into cakes, muffins and tarts, or enjoy the seasonal taste all year round with some delicious cranberry jam.

TOP TIP If you are unable to get hold of cherry plums, regular British plums will do the trick



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Deirdre and Bobby Loxton's dramatic family home



ABODE

near Hermanus blends old and new to stunning effect

Words **GAP INTERIORS/HILARY PRENDINI TOFFOLI/H&L** Styling and photography **GAP INTERIORS/MICKY HOYLE/H&L**



Above Family members are seated around the table made by Bobby from leftover ceiling planks. Bobby sits in the wickerwork chair with his wife Deirdre to his right.

With its vast proportions, raw textures and neutral palette, this Stanford, Western Cape home is a stunning example of classic proportions and contemporary style. The house is monumental in scale and bold in concept – a rustic villa with a grand Italian feel and a modern design.

With its warm bare-brick walls, pale cement floors and untreated wood ceilings, the house manages to evoke baronial ambience as well as hipster chic. Its lofty location, immense high-ceilinged spaces and blazing fires in enormous fireplaces give visitors the sensation that they have stumbled into a private castle.

Deirdre and Bobby Loxton built their home on 200 hectares in the rolling hills outside Stanford, near Hermanus, 90 minutes drive from Cape Town. Hermanus is renowned as a family-friendly seaside resort and a great place for whalewatching. The Loxtons' property is out of town and was

designed for the couple and their six children. Sheep, goats and Nguni cattle roam the fields, and ducks and chickens potter round the lawns and vegetable garden. Wild buck and baboons wander in the shrubland beyond.

OPEN-PLAN ERA

Deirdre grew up on a corn and cattle farm in the Eastern Free State and suspects that the quality of life embedded in her memory from those days in the old sandstone farmhouse had a lot to do with how she envisaged the open-plan areas of her Stanford home in the beginning.

"There was always lots of room when I was a child growing up," she says. "Later, in a more cramped city environment, those generous family farm spaces became my dream." She craved "huge, wide counters to work at, in the kitchen, big enough for us all to stand making pizzas, for example", and they have made many. The pizza oven is in



Right An eclectic range of mirrors adds interest to this bright and cheerful living area. Deirdre's passion for colour and shape is evident, throughout her home.



Left Chiquita the Yorkshire terrier sits on an old Persian carpet which once graced Rust en Vrede, one of South Africa's most famous wine estates in Stellenbosch.

REAL HOMES Rustic retreat



My most indulgent home purchase was the baby grand piano in the living room. Once I used to play every morning in my pyjamas



the vast open-plan living area that greets visitors when they come through the weighty wooden front door. Opposite lies an equally spacious stoep (patio) and large elevated pool.

On one side of this impressive hall there's a roomy fireplace with buck horns on the chimney piece, and comfortable sofas and a chaise longue grouped around. On the other, under one of the delicately coloured, pear-shaped chandeliers you can admire all over the house, stands a long dining table surrounded by mismatched chairs, some of which once graced Rust en Vrede, South Africa's premium red wine estate, renowned for its fine dining.

SPECIAL TREASURES

"I don't like to bring home things that are brand spanking new," says Deirdre. "Such things don't have a life to them and don't tell a story. When many people have loved a special piece, that puts life into it. Some of the books in my library are over 100 years old."

The worn Persian carpet under the table also came from Rust en Vrede. "They couldn't understand why I wanted a carpet that was almost threadbare in places but that's what I like to look for," she says. Most of the carpets in this house are reclaimed. They give the rooms a real lived-in feeling.



Deirdre is an inveterate collector. She has put her collections of antique mirrors, prints, and vintage French plates and platters on the olive green walls and mustard-coloured chimney piece of the sitting room.

Her baby grand piano has pride of place in the centre. The house is the brainchild of two interior designers, Arnaldo O'Shea, who is Deirdre's son, and Dieter Rauch. "Bobby and I spent many hours with them fine-tuning the design to our exact needs. I've worked for years in the hospitality industry and the brief was that Lockstone Farm should be a place which we might eventually be able to use as a boutique hotel or event venue," Deirdre explains, noting they've since hosted several weddings.

The team got the feel of an old farmhouse by sourcing reclaimed windows and doors, and used beams left over from the ceilings to make attractive chunky doors for the kitchen cupboards. They put plain brass garden taps and copper piping laid against the bare brick in the bathrooms.

Deirdre is an artist and her paintings pop up everywhere. Her creative instinct is evident in the novel quotes she has written here and there in the cement floors. "Life will always lead you to a better place. Live life!" says one. The Loxtons' home is just the spot in which to embody this philosophy.





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We are always pleased to promote Britain's heritage in *Period Ideas* and where better to

celebrate our manufacturing genius than the north of England? This month we're in Lancashire to meet Craig Nutter, Technical Director at Esse Engineering. The company makes beautiful range cookers, stoves and firewalls and has been established since 1854.

"I joined Ouzledale Foundry, the home of Esse manufacturing, at the age of 15, as an apprentice to the sheet metal department," says Craig, one of 68 hard-working employees. His proudest moment was developing the cleanest wood burning cooker on the market. "Even the independent test house had to double-check their equipment as they could not believe the results," he recalls.

Esse has always been at the forefront of innovation, in fact it was the first company

to bring new technology to Europe with its own version of the North American type of enclosed heating stoves to the continent. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, Esse stoves were in every Royal household in Europe and notable owners included Captain Scott, Mrs Beeton and Florence Nightingale. The lady with the lamp used Esse stoves and cookers in the Crimea, whilst the explorers Scott and Shackleton took theirs with them to Antarctica.

Craig's favourite design movement really flourished around this time – as he appreciates the handiwork and vision of William Morris, the founding father of the Arts and Crafts movement. Morris's versatility and prodigious output is still astounding today, as he worked as an artist, poet and politician as well as designer-maker with his pattern designs inspired by nature.

Morris was no stranger to rising to challenges and neither is Craig. He's done everything from advising on big machinery changes to large investments in computer systems which have enabled exciting new product development. In fact, the thing he enjoys the most about working at Esse is the number of different challenges which arise on a daily basis. "I look forward to where the ever changing technology is going and how we can work with it and make it work for us," he says.

This summer Esse, was behind Lancashire's first ever pop-up cookery school, working with top chefs to show what a joy it is to use its range cookers. Esse cookers are handcrafted to order so rest assured that your purchase will be made lovingly with great attention to detail.



Flaming good IDEAS

We're impressed by how clear and easy-to-navigate the Esse website is at esse.com. You'll find practical information about all of its products from multi-fuel stoves, to range cooker and firewalls. If you have any further questions give the team a call on **01282 813 235**

Retro revival

Fiona White and Brian Kelly have used open spaces and an eclectic mix of mid-century modern pieces to breathe new life into their Victorian apartment

Words **GAP INTERIORS/FIONA REID** Photography **GAP INTERIORS/DOUGLAS GIBB**



Above The change of layout between the kitchen and living room to create an open plan space worked far better than the couple ever imagined. "I never thought that taking one wall down would make such a big difference," admitted Fiona.

A combination of contemporary and retro finds set against an elegant backdrop of Victorian features makes this Scottish home one-of-a-kind. Fiona White, co-director of a Glasgow-based events company, and her partner Brian Kelly, a television director, have used their creative flair to redesign their apartment into a highly individual home.

DREAM BIG

Creating, or finding, the home of your dreams can require perseverance. Fiona and Brian found themselves facing a conundrum when looking around for a new property two years ago: quite simply, they couldn't find anything they liked as much, either in size, location or features, as their Victorian apartment in Glasgow's West End. The couple

bought the flat back in 1998 and renovated the interior, but years later it was either a case of move or completely redesign. Realising that the former didn't look that appealing, Fiona turned instead to friend, and interior designer, Anna Murray, for advice.

"I sat down with Anna and said, what is it about the flat that doesn't work?" Fiona recalls. "There was one obvious answer - the living room." The north-facing lounge was rarely used by Fiona and Brian, and even though it was relatively large it was fairly gloomy. In contrast, the south-facing dining-kitchen at the rear of the flat was typically full of light. "Anna suggested we knock through between the two spaces, allowing light to flood into the living room. It was a simple idea," Fiona agrees. "It has totally transformed the way the place feels."



Today it's hard to imagine that there was ever a gloomy before-version of this vibrant living space – vibrant in its light, and also in the personality that is evident as soon as you walk through the front door and are greeted by a stunning piece of Victorian craftsmanship. “The original trellis is really unusual. This, in the hallway, was one of the first things that sold the flat to us,” Fiona remembers. “We painted it black before, but now it’s a softer shade of grey.”

The new colour scheme alone has changed this interior. When the couple first renovated the flat the hallway was painted egg-yolk yellow with a black and white tiled floor. Today it's all elegant tones of grey, from the palest French grey to an earthy slate hue that feels timeless. The palette also provides a backdrop for Fiona's collection of photography, including a number of images from Glasgow's Barras marketplace and pieces from the couple's artist friends. Fiona used some of her event production connections to source art and reclaim salvage items.

CREATIVE COLLECTIONS

The interior is as much about Fiona's interests and original selections – from the vintage mirrors to contemporary art – as it is about the aesthetics. The mantelpiece in the living room, for example, is laden with candles and tea light holders, and old framed photos and mirrors Fiona picks up from her favourite Glasgow antiques haunt, Authentics. “I don't know why I'm attracted to these old mirrors and the tea light holders, but I am,” she says. “Maybe individually none of it really goes, but they seem to work together.”

“I have to rein myself in,” she admits. “Brian hates clutter; he's very neat and tidy, so I have areas for my pieces where they have to be contained!” She isn't sure how these collections start; “They just evolve and take on a life of their own.” Fiona also collects boxes and baskets, and it just so happens that they are grouped together throughout the flat. “There's nothing worse than a space that looks like a show home or hotel,” she says. “You've got to feel that it's your space.”

Below centre “One of our favourite spaces is the wee cocktail bar. We were going to use the space to accommodate a large fridge, but we felt it would encroach too much on the lounge. This instead punctuates the space between the kitchen and the lounge brilliantly.”





The over-mantle mirror was originally salvaged from a large house in Ayrshire. "As it was too big to go above our little fireplace we had it hung on the wall to reflect light around the lounge," says Fiona.

There's nothing worse than a space that looks like a show home or hotel. You've got to feel that it's your space.



Above The new kitchen has become the heart of the home. "Guests make a beeline for the breakfast bar. I like that it looks like a piece of furniture," Fiona says of her bespoke island.



RELOVED RETRO

Thanks to Fiona's resourceful nature the couple's existing furniture and features were granted a new lease of life. The timber fire surround was originally in the snug, but now fits well in the living room, becoming a focal point with the statement convex mirror and frame collection. The Ercol sofa and day bed, which date from the 1960s, were also given another chance when Fiona re-upholstered them in a Scottish striped tweed fabric.

The pieces aren't just based merely on fashion or trends, although they tick all the boxes here too, but Fiona chose things on instinct, like the Harry Bertoina chairs that are paired with the retro rosewood dining table.

She admitted her home shopping approach is to only choose things she loves. "When I think of my mum, she uses things in her home today that were around when I was growing up, and she still treasures them, whereas nowadays

people just get bored and throw things away. I wanted to choose pieces that would last."

This included the occasional bespoke piece such as a music box, complete with turntable, and the storage casket on castors for Brian's collection of vinyl. It is these key pieces have anchored the eclectic style, and are integral to Fiona's final scheme.

The couple's flexible approach has allowed Fiona and Brian to exercise their creative freedom and inject their home with character. The couple's taste may be refined but they are realistic when it comes to the reality of budgeting for a project. The couple saved money where they could – by fitting Ikea cabinets, for example – and investing in key pieces, like the bespoke kitchen island, and the engineered oak flooring laid throughout the hallway, kitchen and living room to create a sense of continuity throughout their distinctive apartment.

3 SALVAGE STYLE TIPS

- Create a blank canvas with neutral or grey shades. This will allow a backdrop for your collectables and vintage finds to stand out and you won't have to worry about colour clashing.
- Mantelpieces and shelves are the perfect setting to display items, and can be changed with the season. Gather items and treasures collected over the years that mean something and tell a story to add a personal touch. Mix up your dimensions with different heights and collect items you have a true passion or love for.
- Be careful not to over-clutter. It can be tempting to display all your finds, but be discerning about what you keep, too many items clustered together can look messy. If it's a mid-century modern look you are trying to create, remember the key feature was minimalism with just a scattering of statement pieces.



The dramatic shine-on-matte printed black wallpaper in the couple's bedroom sets the scheme with a mix of masculine and feminine pieces.



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For the chance to win this fantastic prize, turn to page 138 or head to periodideas.com and answer the following question.

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A Lincolnshire **B** Lancashire
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Two prizes are set for a Shaws Ribchester sink. No cash alternative is available. The prize is non-transferable and does not include installation or removal of any existing fittings. Only open to residents in mainland UK. The decision of the judge is final.

CLOSING DATE: 13th November 2015

RURAL RELOCATION

Woodland RETREAT

*Sue and Ben Blackburn created their own forest fairytale
with a 10-year cottage transformation*

Words **GAP INTERIORS/HEATHER DIXON** Photography **GAP INTERIORS/COLIN POOLE** Styling **HEATHER DIXON/COLIN POOLE**

There's something about the still silence of the forest and the soothing sounds of living nature that evoke a sense of calm that most of us only dream about. But for Sue and Ben Blackburn, they made this fantasy a reality by creating a peaceful hideaway in the midst of an atmospheric woodland. "It's one of the reasons we love it so much," says Sue. "We follow the seasons, the weather, the wildlife – it's all right here on our doorstep."

On their journey to this idyllic lifestyle, the couple faced many obstacles, but it was one they knew they had to make when they became desperate to escape the pressures and pace of city life. Instead of down-sizing to a smaller property, the pair took on a dilapidated 10,000 square foot outdoor pursuit centre with a farmhouse and launched a 10-year project with the aim of transforming the empty rooms into holiday cottages, as well as a home for themselves. "We were creating a new life but we still needed to earn a living," says Sue. "Ben is a fantastic joiner and wanted a project. It was a huge challenge – we hadn't quite bargained for something on such a big scale – but we saw it, fell in love with it, and bought it, knowing we could breathe life back into the neglected old buildings."

HAPPY CAMPERS

While the couple were more than delighted with the abundance of space they could make their own, the complex of farm buildings is located in the middle of a National Park in North Yorkshire, which meant they were not allowed to extend the original footprint or radically alter the exterior. Inside, however, they fully embraced their creative freedom. "A lot of the original features had been lost over time," says Ben. "We wanted to restore what we could and recreate anything that was no longer there – including the oak beams, original floors and the fireplace in the sitting room."

Committed to their project, the pair camped in a former office building for 10 weeks, until they could update the electrics and install the cottage with plumbing. They made the most of this time by forging ahead with some of the more gruelling aspects of the renovation, such as cleaning the beams and gutting the old 1960s fireplace in preparation for a log-burning stove. With this hands-on approach, the

couple had to sacrifice many home comforts, so the next few months were spent getting by with just an emergency water supply that was fed through the cottage window.

"We wanted the cottage to be cosy and practical," says Sue. "We both love the outdoors so we often come back from a long walk in the forest with muddy wellies and wet coats. It's not the kind of lifestyle for pale carpets! Fortunately, Ben can turn his hand to pretty much anything, which helped us to keep the costs down." While Ben got stuck into making the kitchen cupboards, the bathroom cabinets and one of the bedroom headboards, Sue hunted for hidden treasures and bargains in sale rooms and antique shops.

Right Ben removed the 1960s fireplace and fitted the corbels and mantle beam to create the Yeoman log-burning stove. Sue bought most of the furniture from auctions and antique shops.





Committed to their project, the pair camped in a former office building for 10 weeks



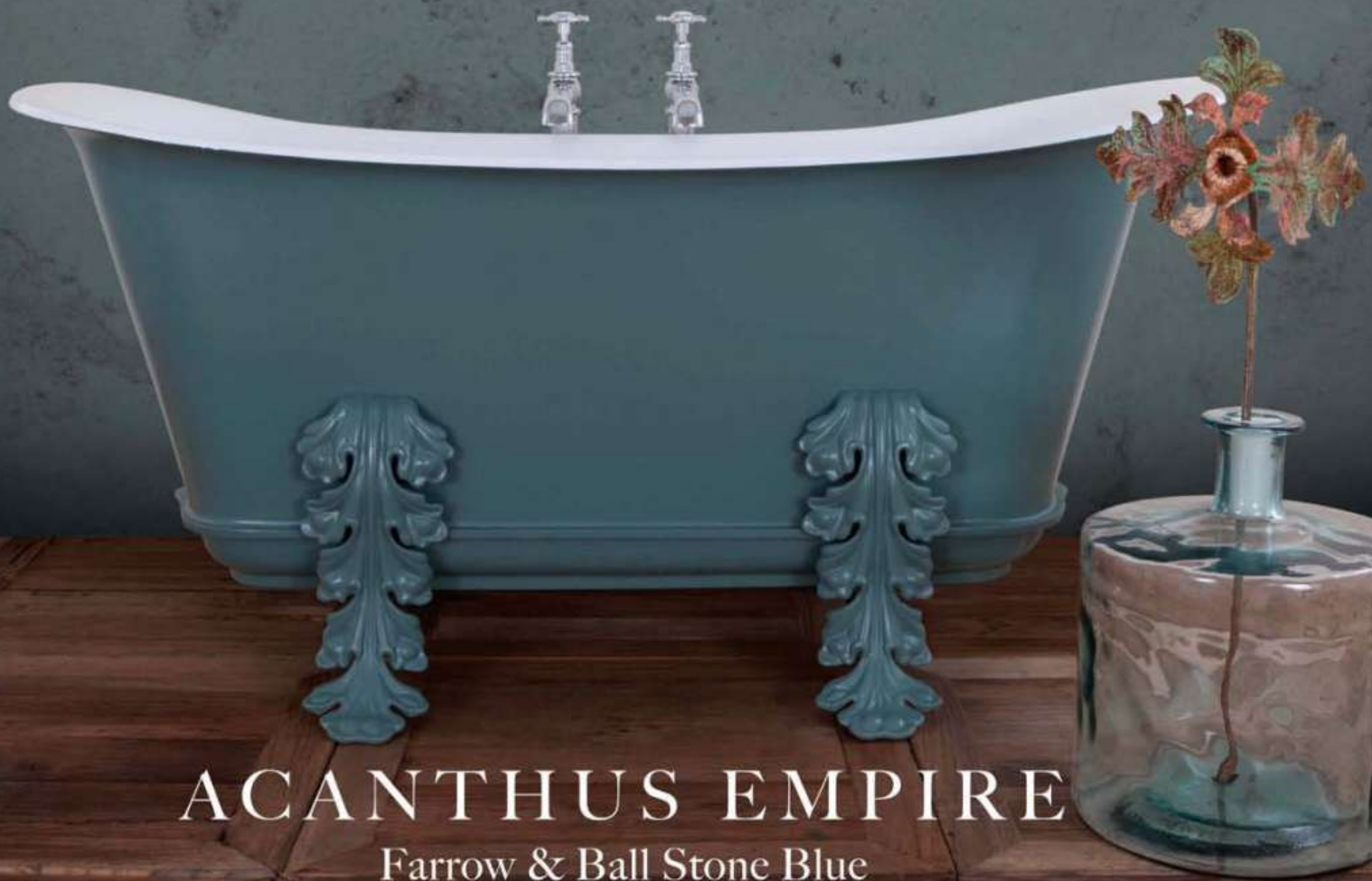
3 | RURAL STYLE TIPS

- Create an authentic, shabby-chic look by upcycling used furniture. Painting wooden pieces and roughly sanding the edges is a great way to incorporate an older piece into your scheme.
- Combine exposed, rugged textures, such as wood and slate, with a neutral colour palette to create a countryside feel.
- Reflect aspects of nature throughout your interiors, using fresh flowers and greenery for centrepieces and decoration, these will add rural charm to your interiors.



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She spruced up some old furniture by painting it to suit the style of the property and made cosy soft furnishings for decorating the house. Sue also worked on developing the pretty cottage garden, which falls away into a small forest clearing and is encased by a dense cluster of trees.

NATURE CALLS

Not only are the surroundings a picturesque place to set up home, the woodland and wildlife is integral to Sue and Ben's way of life. They have incorporated the great outdoors into their everyday routine, walking Fin, their dalmatian/weimaraner cross, for miles through the forest and along country lanes. They make the most of these ventures by foraging for berries, mushrooms, nuts and leaves for the table, as well as foliage for decorating the house.

Utilising the rich and rugged ground, the Blackburns also grow their own fruit, which they use to make jams and chutneys, swapping them for eggs and fresh vegetables with the neighbours in the village. Nearly all of the materials for the renovation were bought locally, such as the logs for their wood-burning stove which were bought from a local lumber yard. "You learn to be more self-sufficient when you live in a place like this," tells Sue. "You immerse yourself into a totally new way of life."

Despite the vast landscape surrounding their home, Sue and Ben make sure they have plenty of company. "Although we



Left Sue and Ben love travelling and will often come home with throws, cushion covers or small rugs for the cottage. The throw over this bed is from India, while the furniture is made of pine and was painted by Sue.



REAL HOMES Farmhouse makeover



are isolated, we never get lonely. We have a lot of friends in the village and we often have people over for dinner or to stay for the weekend, but we also like our own space," Sue continues. "We like the quiet and the sheer joy of spending so much time outdoors. When you live in the middle of the forest, you notice all the subtle changes of nature. You are acutely aware of the seasons - it's a fabulous lifestyle," she explains.

But there's an element of give and take to the couple's wonderful relationship with nature. A small herd of red deer is now well established in the forest, with Roe deer seen grazing in the garden at dawn and dusk. While Ben and Sue achieved the rural idyll, it's one they may soon have to forgo

as family issues take priority. "It would be a huge wrench to leave, but when we eventually move on, we shall recreate what we have here, but on a smaller scale," says Sue. "Once you have lived in isolation like this and experienced the peace and contentment of a country lifestyle, it's difficult to go back to the city. We have everything we could possibly want right here on the forest doorstep."

Right Sue, Ben and Fin have made woodland ventures a way of life. Whether they're foraging for fresh mushrooms and berries, or taking a gentle stroll, the outdoors is part of their home.



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*Step inside some of Britain's
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Words **JEREMY MUSSON/MERRELL**
Photography **PAUL BARKER/MERRELL**



Left Previously a school and a hotel, Stocks House in Hampshire has been restored in the manner of a French country house, making full use of its tall windows, overlooking the extensive grounds.

Any new country house is a descendant of a rich and varied tradition, not least because until the mid-twentieth century all great designers were called on to design and devise country houses as part of their architectural careers. Christopher Hussey, writing in 1951, thought that the country house was 'England's most characteristic, visible contribution to the richness of European civilisation' and that something of that significance lay not just in its architecture but also in its relationship to the landscape and its role in the social and cultural life of the countryside.

The impact of two world wars, mid-century social and taxation altered irrevocably the culture of English country house building. The fundamental change in status and power of the traditional landowner, which had begun, politically speaking, in the 1870s, saw the retreat of many landowning families from the great houses they inherited.

This led to major sales of contents and land, and even to the demolition of many fine historic houses (especially after the Second World War, where many had been requisitioned for military use). The National Trust's country house scheme was a response to this crisis, and much of the activity of country house architects in the 1950s and '60s involved in the reduction in scale of older houses and their sometimes (unhappily) drastic adaptation for living with smaller domestic staffs on hand.

The battle of styles between the Modernist and the traditional, was played out in the field of the country house as elsewhere, although the great leaps forward of Modernist architecture were always more distinct in grand urban projects. There have always been surprisingly strong cross-currents between the design of the best Modernist villas and the smaller Regency country house by, say, John Nash.

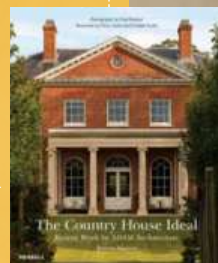




HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

Find out more about the latest classically-inspired new builds

This extract is taken from *The Country House Ideal - Recent Work* by ADAM Architecture. This gorgeous book is published by Merrell, priced £40 and it focuses on 19 new country houses in England and Scotland. The author, Jeremy Musson, is an architectural historian, writer and broadcaster and was formerly architectural editor of *Country Life* magazine.





CREATIVE DIALOGUE

Traditionalist architects and designers based in the UK who have become prominent since the 1980s and 1990s include Demetri Porphyrios, John Simpson, Craig Hamilton, Peter Yiangou, Julian Bicknell, Alireza Sagharchi and Ben Pentreath. Their lively and diverse practices demonstrate alongside the work of ADAM Architecture, that England is one of the great contemporary theatres of Classical design.

There is a strong sense of a continuing conversation with the past, while at the same time the designs are part of a creative dialogue with the needs and processes of the present day and changing lifestyles.

As Robert Adam comments, “The point about the Classical tradition is that it’s a tradition, not an exercise in reproduction. I get cross when I’m told that my design isn’t right because it has elements from different periods. The designs are today’s designs, which draw on the broad range of the Classical tradition to answer modern problems.”

The country house plan of today clearly reflects new fashions and technologies. Nigel Anderson, another architect-director at ADAM says, “The informal living, eating and cooking area as the core of the house is a common theme. In the larger houses, the requirement for a catering kitchen as well as a family kitchen alters the normal sequence and position of the utility and service areas. Increasingly, basements are also required for secondary entertainment spaces as well as more utilitarian functions.”

George Saumaurez Smith adds, “Palladio’s palaces, in particular, were designed for flexible living, and the rooms

were quite sparsely furnished. They are based on a variety of well-proportioned room sizes and shapes: this, in my view, should be the basis of modern house planning, as they allow for future changes in taste and use.”

FLEXIBLE LIVING

Some things, of course, do not change, as Robert Adam remarks: “On the whole, people still live in rooms with four walls that need natural light. Heating makes life easier, as it doesn’t fix fireplaces in every room. Now most large houses have bathrooms for each bedroom and this does not affect first-floor planning, in particular, if all have adequate natural light and ventilation.

“The most significant technological impact is the kitchen-as-living-room and its ancillary functions – utilities, boot rooms, etc. There is no set typology, but this is where most families spend most of their time and also where the planning is often most difficult.”

Hugh Petter also notes how, “with smaller houses in particular, there is quite often an aspiration to open up the plan with vistas through the house (a la Palladio) and sometimes to include double pocket doors so that the space is made more flexible and can be opened up for a party. Heavy traditional buildings with high thermal mass perform well in terms of sustainability, and can readily integrate green technology along with computerised lighting and audio-visual technology.”

Above Britain’s glorious heritage ranges from villas to terraces. Bath is a World Heritage Site thanks to its Georgian architecture. Pulteney Bridge, designed by Robert Adam, was named after Frances Pulteney, a cousin of the 1st Earl of Bath.

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Preserving our Past

Jenna Gregory discovers how the National Trust's conservation team restores period properties to their former glory

Photography **NTPL/HANNAH PROTHERO, JOHN HAMMOND,
ANDREW BUTLER, CLAIRE HILL, JAMES BRESLIN, TEXTILE
CONSERVATION STUDIO & ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL**



Top right William Morris' Red House in London

Above The tapestries from Hardwick Hall have undergone extensive restoration

Left A member of the National Trust conservation team restores the wall painting found at William Morris' Red House

If you've ever wondered where to start with a big project in your home, spare a thought for Katy Lithgow, head conservator at the National Trust. She's responsible for the conservation of the Trust's collections from statues to interiors, and manages work on preventative care and physical damage. With over one million objects in the collection, Katy and her 36-strong team work with and advise 3,000 property staff and countless volunteers who carry out the day-to-day maintenance.

"The focus for the teams is little and often, rather than waiting for things to go into disrepair. The Trust works with 230 freelance conservators who are specialists in different areas, and interns and students from the likes of the Institute of Archaeology. But there is a funding and skills gap in the area of conservation. Our main base is at our in-house textile studio in Norfolk where staff oversee the remediable conservation," says Katy.

Approximately £1 million is spent on conservation with the Trust's properties annually, although the spending target is £3 million a year. Katy believes that "to clear the backlog of work we need to be spending up to £7.5 million a year."



Thankfully, this is where organisations such as the Wolfson Foundation come in. It supports outstanding projects in history, education, science and the arts, and has awarded grants to some 10,000 projects across the UK since 1955. "Grants have been awarded for vital conservation work at properties from Cornwall to Northern Ireland, and Wales to Cheshire," says the chief executive, Paul Ramsbottom.

The vast majority of the Trust's conservation work carried out is repairing historic damage and general wear and tear over the years. "Reduced staff in country houses after the First World War had an impact on housekeeping and the care of interiors," Katy explains. "Central heating also overheated many properties affecting the lifespan of furniture and textiles. When the Trust took on these properties it was left to repair them. We are currently in a period of the most rapid decay ever and face greater threats from flooding, collapsing buildings and heavy rain on roofs."

TEXTILES AND TAPESTRIES

Textiles are subject to worst decay from pests, such as moths, but they can also self-destruct due to their own weight pulling on the threads and fine detail. "They also suffer from the build-up of dust over the years, especially when coal fires and oil lamps were used, leading to chemical deterioration and acidic decay," Katy explains. "The fashion for daylight in the early 20th century also affected textiles, fading their original colours."

The National Trust owns the largest tapestry collection in Britain, and one of the largest in the world, with around 650 individual pieces. Care of these delicate and fragile items is time-consuming and requires highly-skilled conservation techniques.

EXTRAORDINARY EMBROIDERIES

One piece that went through three years of painstaking preservation, at the Trust's textile studio in Norfolk, is the *Penelope* tapestry, which is perhaps one of the most important surviving Elizabethan embroideries in Europe.

The hanging, which has now returned to its home at Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire, depicts Penelope, wife of Ulysses from Greek mythology, with her virtues of patience and perseverance. The piece was commissioned in the 1570s, by Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury (better known as Bess of Hardwick) as part of a set of five embroidered hangings for

Visit periodideas.com to find out more about the current restoration projects by the National Trust and read our full interview with head conservator, Katy Lithgow.



Above Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire
Right The wall painting that was discovered and is now being restored at Red House
Below The *Penelope* tapestry went through three years of preservation

her spectacular home, Hardwick Hall. Made from rich fabrics, the five pieces represented renowned noble women from history and mythology. To Bess, the hangings were a powerful statement of her wealth, status and education.

The conservators discovered that *Penelope* was larger than it originally seemed as it had been folded to fit inside a screen. As it could no longer be placed back inside its original case, Hardwick Hall decided to display the textile differently. With vastly improved lighting the piece is now better showcased, enabling the beautiful 3D nature of the appliqué embroidery to be fully appreciated.

AN ARTS AND CRAFTS TREASURE

One of the Trust's current restoration projects, and said to be one of Katy Lithgow's greatest conservation achievements, is the discovery of original paintings at Red House in

Bexleyheath, London.

Commissioned, created and lived in by the one of the founding members of the Arts and Crafts movement, William Morris, Red House is a building of enormous social, architectural and artistic significance.

Built in 1860, Morris wanted a house where he and his friends, the Pre-Raphaelites, could enjoy producing works of art. Featuring ceilings painted by Morris himself, stained glass and wall murals by Edward Burne-Jones and furniture decorated by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Red House was the birthplace of the Morris



aesthetic, which would later go on to become so successful.

Among the projects at Red House was the conservation of several wall paintings by Morris and Burne-Jones. One of the most exciting discoveries at Red House occurred in the bedroom. A wall painting had been partially revealed as a result of moving a cupboard. It showed two full-length figures in medieval costume standing in a wooden landscape on a dark blue background.

A further three characters were also found and are believed to be part of a joint collaboration involving Morris, Burne-Jones, Rossetti, his wife Elizabeth Siddal, and Ford Madox Brown, each having painted their own figure.

"It's remarkable that so much vivid colour and all these extraordinary paintings were hidden by so much dark furniture! The transformation of Red House is one of my biggest achievements," says Katy. The architectural paint analysis led to a number of other exciting discoveries throughout the house, revealing rich deep colour palettes, which can now be viewed by the public.

"We now try to take advantage of new analytical tools and new technology, such as with HD microscopic cameras, but we always have a preference to use a hand method whenever possible," Katy explains. "Unlike work which was carried out in the past, which might have preserved a piece for 50 years, we now want to double the lifetime and take our repairs to 100 years before work is due again."

Welcome donor

These projects have been heavily funded by the Wolfson Foundation, which is currently celebrating 600 years of providing support with heritage projects and the arts. For more information on its work visit wolfson.org.uk

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WORCESTER SOURCE **Collectables**

Margaret Powling delves into the early days of the English porcelain industry

Once upon a time in Oxford, over 20 years ago, and seeking shade from blisteringly hot sunshine, I wandered into the Ashmolean Museum. All I can remember of that visit – apart from the oppressive heat – was a rather insignificant room, accessed down a short flight of stairs, which beckoned to me like a half-open treasure chest. Even from a distance I could see splashes of jewel-like colours: wine-dark cerise, daffodil yellow, rich cobalt blue, vibrant emerald green, and all on exquisite porcelain.

I had stumbled upon the world's most comprehensive representation (on display) of coloured Worcester porcelain of the 'First (or Dr Wall) Period', 1751-82. The collection was given to the Museum in 1957 by Mr and Mrs H R Marshall in memory of their only son, William Somerville, who was killed in action in Holland, aged 21, in 1944.

But what is First (or Dr Wall) Period Worcester? Before I can answer that we must appreciate that in the mid-1700s Europe, was gripped by 'Chinamania'.

"Imported Chinese porcelain was highly valued and investors dreamed of vast profits if anyone in Britain could discover a way to make porcelain in imitation of the Chinese," says porcelain expert, John Sandon. "Worcester seemed an unlikely place to establish a porcelain factory, there was no local clay and the coal needed to fuel kilns had to be brought in by riverboat."

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Despite these difficulties, the Worcester Porcelain Company was founded by a deed of partnership signed on 4th June 1751. Among the original 15 partners were Dr John Wall, a doctor of medicine who had established the Worcester Infirmary, and William Davis, an apothecary or chemist.

In the 1750s English porcelain was in its infancy and at first Worcester porcelain was

treated with suspicion. People knew that Chinese teapots were durable but could English teapots be trusted not to crack when boiling water was poured into them? Thanks to Dr Wall's formula, which included an ingredient known as soap rock (a metamorphic rock, largely composed of mineral talc and rich in magnesium, and also known as steatite or soapstone) the new Worcester teapots withstood the heat, thus giving them an advantage over their competitors.

GOLDEN AGE

With Worcester's reputation firmly established it no longer needed to decorate its wares in the Chinese manner and, instead, took decorative inspiration from Europe, particularly from the Meissen factory.

From this point in time, its products were decorated with some recognisable European landscapes and garden flowers.

Much of Worcester's porcelain was far too expensive for everyday use so today we have examples of these early wares; they were displayed in cabinets or on shelves for safe keeping. We must bear in mind too, that before transfer printing was invented, all items were hand-painted, a laborious and expensive process. The early part of the 1770s was the Golden Age for Worcester porcelain when the factory grew in size, producing high-quality porcelain for every sector of the market.

But all too soon the company faced challenges. There was an economic recession in England and Worcester faced a difficult time. Furthermore, in 1772 Dr Wall retired, and the business continued under his friend



and partner, William Davis. Elegant 'cabinet' pieces were made alongside cheaper blue-printed tableware but, according to John Sandon, "what had been a profitable part of the business now faced serious competition from a rival in Caughley in Shropshire. By the 1780s things looked rather bleak for the once-great Worcester porcelain factory."

And then along came a saviour, china dealer, Thomas Flight. In 1783 he bought the ailing company for £3,000 as an investment for his two sons, John and Joseph. Before they came of age, the firm was run by Robert Chamberlain and his son Humphrey, who had hitherto been in charge of decoration.

But the business relationship became strained and in 1788 broke down completely. The Chamberlains set up their own company, taking with them much of the workforce, but undeterred, John Flight engaged new modellers and turned things around.

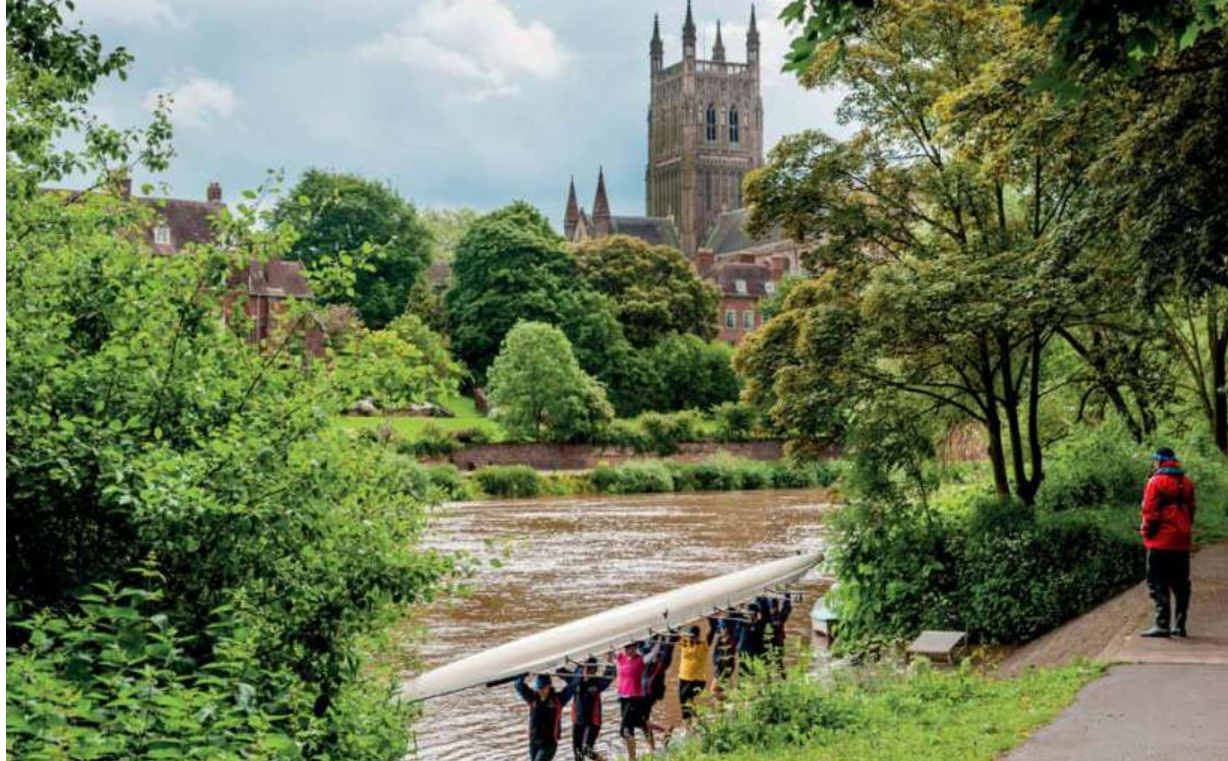




Left An antique porcelain tureen dating to the Georgian era c.1810.

Right An exceptional Royal Worcester vase and cover by George Owen and Edward Salter, which is dated 1899. bonhams.com

Above right Worcester cathedral is a magnificent sight as it rises majestically above the River Severn. The city was home to Sir Edward Elgar for much of his life.



Margaret's Excellent Advice

Feed your passion for porcelain with a field trip to the cities of Oxford or Worcester

If you'd like to admire the H.R Marshall Collection of Worcester Porcelain then please note that it can be seen in the elegant new European Ceramics Gallery at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Another place you may find interesting is the superb Royal Worcester museum which is just two minutes' walk from Worcester cathedral. It holds the largest collection of Worcester porcelain in the world. The Georgian, Victorian and 20th century galleries will take you on a journey through time and the informative audio tour features the factory's history and its remarkable workforce.



DIARY DATES

● Vintage Jewellery & Accessories, Fellows Auctioneers, 2nd November

This auction of Vintage Jewellery & Accessories brings together an eclectic mix of trinkets; from designer handbags to high-quality costume and vintage jewellery, and is unmissable for any lover of all things vintage. Taking place 8 times a year, this sale creates a buzz of excitement in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter. All lots are available to view online before the auction, where you can also sign up to bid. 0121 212 2131, fellows.co.uk

● Ardingly Fair, South of England Showground, 3rd-4th November

The Ardingly International Antiques and Collectors Fair is a cosmopolitan event. Just one hour from London, 12 miles from Gatwick and 90 minutes from Dover, local, national and international dealers and buyers attend the largest IACF event in the south of England. Up to 1,700 stalls are available to browse. Tickets are £20 on Tuesday (allows for entry on Wednesday) and £5 on Wednesday. Open from 9am-5pm on Tuesday and 8am-4pm on Wednesday. 01636 702 326, iacf.co.uk

● Antiques, Collectors & Vintage weekend, Holmewood Hall, Peterborough, 7th-8th November

This country house will be opening its rooms and hallway to stallholders with a wide and exciting variety of items to suit most tastes. Enjoy stunning walks along with hot and cold refreshments and ample parking. All level access. Up to 60 stalls. Early bird entry on Saturday only from 8.30am for £3.50, entry £2.50 (children under 16 free). Open from 9.30am-4pm. No dogs permitted. 0777 234 9431, fielddogfairs.com

● Antiques for Everyone, Winter Fair, NEC Birmingham, 19th-22nd November

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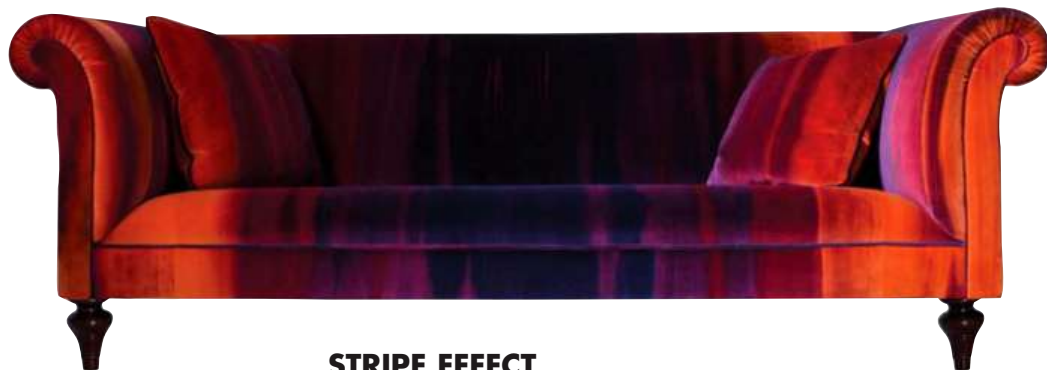
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LOUNGING AROUND

Come home to comfort with the handcrafted range from heritage British furniture makers, Parker Knoll. Ideal for the long winter nights is this Vialli Amethyst fabric, shown below, on the Harrow two-seater sofa, £1,364, and the Winchester footstool, from £559. **01773 604 121, parkerknoll.co.uk**



PURPLE PALETTE

With the darker evenings ahead, now is the time to refresh your interior and opt for a moody purple palette, and these two latest colour additions to Crown Paints are a winning combo. Lola Plum is available in matt emulsion at £25.99 for 2.5l and Opening Season is available as a matt and silk, priced at £18.49 for 2.5l. crownpaint.co.uk



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STYLE THROUGH THE AGES

Gothic

In the latest instalment of our design series, Charlotte Barber explores the mystery and drama of Gothic style interiors

Bold, romantic and enchanting, Gothic style has its origins deeply rooted in medieval architecture. Largely seen in churches, cathedrals and castles, its characteristics are instantly recognisable and include dramatically vaulted ceilings, imposing finials and lancet windows together with decorative patterns such as intricate scalloping, grand arches, stained glass and ornate fretwork. Even though this style of architecture can be seen in many of the great buildings of the time, and makes for impressive viewing, I find the Gothic Revival period is the best place to look to for usable ideas and inspiration for our own decorating schemes.

Although the Gothic Revival movement began in the late 1700s, it gained momentum and became hugely popular from around 1830-1900, hence it's often referred to as Victorian Gothic or Neo-Gothic. Drawing influences from the original style, this later movement celebrated many of the authentic medieval characteristics but made the form much more accessible to the public. The Victorians loved heavy backdrops of burgundies, dark blues and plum hues, and so Gothic interior pieces fitted perfectly.

To emulate the Gothic style begin by choosing a suitably deep and moody colour palette of rich jewel tones. Your next port of call should be to select a Gothic statement piece of furniture. Items with ornate fretwork and mouldings are just the ticket, although be careful not to overwhelm your space. Remember, less is often more with any strong interior design style. Engulfing your space with dark colours and dramatic furniture could result in a theatrical, haunted house version of Gothic, rather than a contemporary update of this alluring style.

One area in which you can most certainly add a dash of drama is with your lighting scheme. Elaborate hanging chandeliers and tabletop candelabras will illuminate your space with contrasting shadows. Carved wood candlesticks, wrought-iron lamps and dim lighting will all play a part during the winter months, and with the Halloween and festive seasons ahead, consider dramatic table dressings when it comes to entertaining. For a final touch, what could be more eye-catching than a stone statue, gargoyle or suit of armour in the entrance area of your home?

Heraldic motifs, coats of arms and shields will all add to the historical feel, so why not think about tracing your ancestors to find your family crest? Heirloom pieces such as tapestries will work perfectly too – either as traditional wall-hangings or as cushions and upholstery. In terms of fabrics, consider anything with a luxurious feel, such as silk and satin. For a decadent feature wall, velvet and damask patterned wallpaper will suit the theme – just be sure to use black in moderation. Although this dramatic design movement might not be for the faint-hearted, if you're keen to make a statement with your interior scheme then this might just be the style for you.



Take INSPIRATION

If you're captivated by Gothic design then a visit to Strawberry Hill House in London, home to Horace Walpole in the 1700s, is a must-see. A Gothic Revival masterpiece, the house and garden are both open to the public and will provide endless inspiration.

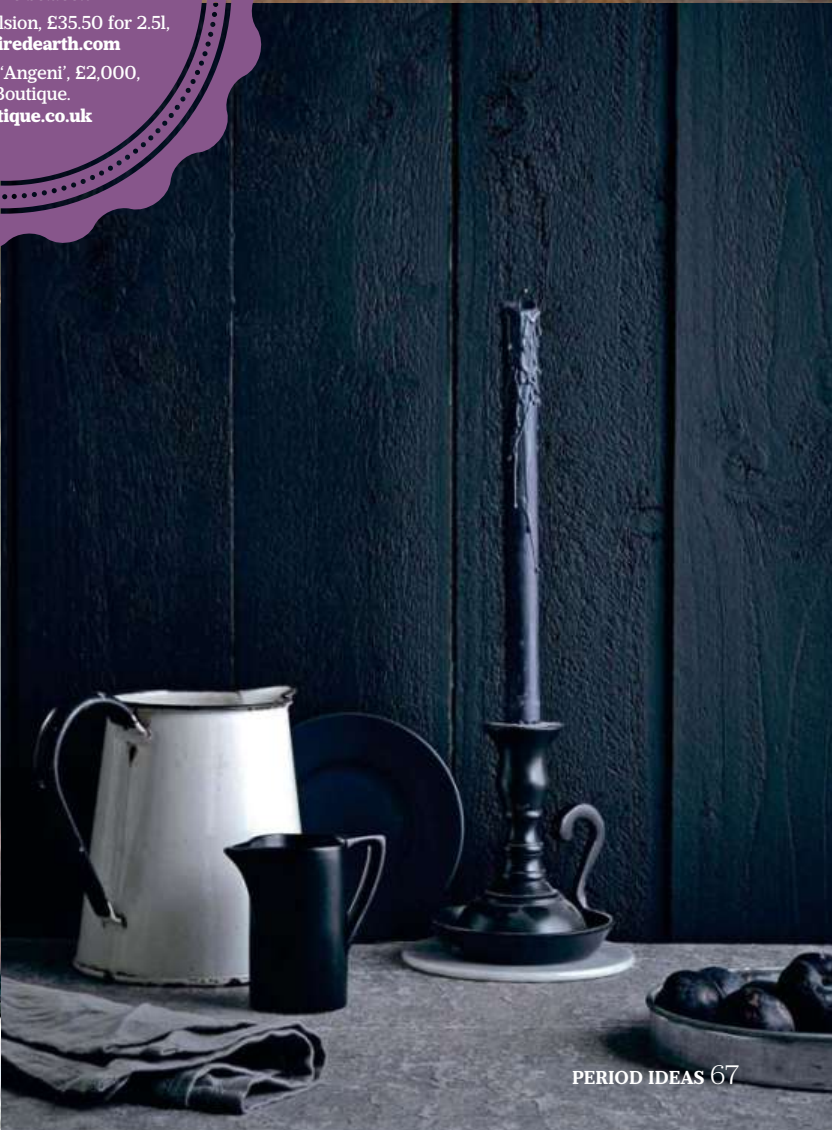


Above The Versailles Noir handcarved mahogany bed, £1,099, Newtons Furniture. newtonsfurniture.co.uk

The Rock Luxe Seat, £385; trunk, £785; antler candelabra, £495.00; cowhide, £688.00; gold floor lamp, £180.00, all from the French Bedroom company. frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk



Clockwise from left
 Porter chandelier, from £2,995,
 Christopher Wray.
christopherwray.com
 The Hornblower Knowle sofa in Molten,
 from £4,461, Darlings of Chelsea.
darlingsofchelsea.co.uk
 Charcoal matt emulsion, £35.50 for 2.5l,
 Fired Earth. firedearth.com
 Skull stag head 'Angeni', £2,000,
 Brave Boutique.
braveboutique.co.uk



GET THE LOOK

Woodland Retreat

Welcome autumn by bringing the outdoors in for a woodland scheme that's in perfect harmony with nature



WALK THE PLANK
Moog Zio Tom sideboard,
£2,960, Go Modern.
020 7731 9540,
gomodern.co.uk



SNUGGLE UP
National Trust Ochre block
check throw Bronte by Moon,
£85. 0300 123 2025, shop.
nationaltrust.org



SOFT SEATING
Angharad sheepskin stool
in rare breed, £199, Baa
Stool. 01824 790 882,
baastool.co.uk



PLUMP IT UP
Voyage Arionne Argenta cushion,
£41.50, Cotswold Trading.
01396 853 331,
cotswoldtrading.com



BRANCH OUT
Tree light, £99, Puji.
020 8886 3000, puji.com



KNOCK ON WOOD
Natural tree table, £149,
Nordic House.
01872 223 220,
nordichouse.co.uk



LITTLE ACORNS
Fallen Fruits rusty acorn
key safe, £6, John Lewis.
0345 604 9049,
johnlewis.com



GOING NUTS
Nutkin bronze squirrel
table lamp and shade, £35,
Housing Units. 0161 681 5678,
housingunits.co.uk



Rated reads

For more seasonal
ideas, pick up these
inspirational books

*Cabins: A guide to building
your own nature retreat*
by David & Jean Stiles
(£14.95, Firefly Books)
The Woodland House
by Ben Law (£14.95,
Permanent Publications)
*Living in Style: Mountain
Chalets* (£45, teNeues
Media)



Above left

Wilderness antler chandelier, £475, Alexander & Pearl. **020 8508 0411**, alexanderandpearl.co.uk

Textured Paisley in neutral bed linen, from £40 for a pair of Oxford pillowcases, Christy. **0845 758 5252**, christy-home.com

3 OF THE BEST... *woodland papers and fabrics*

Be inspired by the forest and add a tree pattern to your scheme



WILD AT HEART
Deer Park fabric in rouge, £84 per m, Lewis & Wood. **01453 878 517**, lewisandwood.co.uk



WOOD FOR THE TREES
Silver birch fabric in charcoal, £50 per m, Laura Ashley. **0333 202 1196**, lauraashley.com



GO WITH THE GRAIN
Colours paste the wall wallpaper in Birchfield, £15.18 per roll, B&Q. **0333 014 3357**, diy.com

STYLE SECRETS

- Late autumn is the ideal time to opt for a country, log cabin look. It's a versatile style which can be adapted for every room and with the seasons. Bedrooms, for example, will perfectly suit wooden panelling or a slatted headboard, whilst living areas will better fit a feature wall of logs. Consider using a wood patterned wallpaper to create a show-stopping talking point.
- An abundance of natural wood is vital. Consider all types for textural appeal – rough-hewn wood will add rugged charm together with knotty pine furniture. The extra width of plank flooring will give a rustic look, just be sure to layer with woollen rugs and sheepskins for a cosy welcome.
- Remember that rustic lighting will anchor your scheme – consider lanterns or an antler chandelier. To create an ambient glow for a restful retreat opt for dimmer switches and candles.



THE BEST... FIRESIDE BUYS

Keep your home cosy and your fires burning bright with our hot fireside selection

1 Large log basket, £115; kindling box, £24.50; coal scuttle, £35; firelighter and matchbox tins, £20, all Garden Trading. 0845 608 4448, gardentrading.co.uk

2 Burnished copper coal scuttle and scoop, £100, Cox & Cox. 0844 858 0744, coxandcox.co.uk

3 Somerset log holder, £275, Chesneys. 020 7627 1410, chesneys.co.uk

4 Grey wash metal fire screen, £92.50, Adventino. 01529 307 812, adventino.co.uk

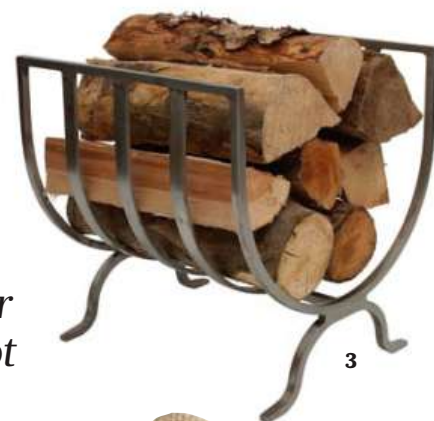
5 Jute log basket, £69.95, Decorator's Notebook. 0845 474 1747, decoratorsnotebook.co.uk

6 Companion set, £89, Cuckooland. 01305 231 231, cuckooland.com

7 Kindling loop log basket, 365, Bouf. 0208 816 8284, bouf.com

8 Wooden bellows, £39, Stovax. 01392 474 000, stovax.com

9 Cast iron kettle humidifiers, from £73 each, Morsø. 01788 554 410, morsø.co.uk



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New England Newport sofa,
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furniturevillage.co.uk

INSTANT INSPIRATION

Wrap up this winter with our pick of **HIGHLAND HOMEWARES** and send sparks flying at bonfire soirées with our glittering **COPPER AND NAVY** trend update. Illuminate your indoors with our **LIGHTING GALLERY** and get the festive preparations underway with our handy guide to **CHRISTMAS GIFTS**. Plus, enter our **BUMPER GIVEAWAY** with £7,000 worth of prizes up for grabs

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Since then, it has expanded to include over 100 designers, carpenters and painters, seeing each product through from concept to completion with a commitment to quality at its heart. With guarantees, a wealth of aftercare products and a service team to help solve any problems, Neptune is passionate about creating products you'll enjoy for years to come.

Our favourite room is...

the kitchen, as it is where all the family spend the most time having fun together.

The thing we like best about our house is...

the different areas and zones we have created with changes of levels. It has an open-plan feel but is very much segregated with some cosy spaces. Everything has its place, which suits John's organised mind!

The place we love most in Britain is...

the Roseland Peninsula in Cornwall, where we have a place to escape to.

Our favourite thing to do when we're at home is...

cooking, especially for friends and family.

Our favourite thing to cook is...

[Emma] I love making tarts, quiches and pies. I experiment by adding all sorts of different ingredients – every time it is different.

When we're decorating a room we always...

think carefully about who is going to use it. Understanding the client and their needs ensures the room is a success.



Always invest in the best you can with furniture – buy once and buy well

Our inspiration comes from...
many places, but often from our travels abroad.

Our biggest style influence is...

European design. In particular, we love the Belgian influence which tends to be understated, elegance and natural in its approach. Axel Vervoordt is a master of interior design.

The worst design disaster we've had was...

[Emma] getting grease from a ladder on a large pair of curtains that I was hanging, then sending them to the dry cleaners who severely shrank them!

If we could make over anyone's home in the world it would be...

[Emma] maybe George Clooney's house!

The current interiors trend we love most is...

an eclectic mix of antiques and contemporary elements.

We think the next interiors trend will be...

libraries. E-readers seem to be taking over the world, but it's

also making us realise the value of the printed word and traditional literature.

Our top tip is...

always invest in the best you can with furniture – buy once and buy well. It will pay off in the long run. We have had our sofa for 25 years.

The best advice we ever received was...

[John] "be strict with your decision making" from Ridley Scott. Emma worked with Ridley before starting her interior design business and becoming Creative Director at Neptune.

[Emma] The projects we did were on a grand scale so it was a skill to be able to whittle down the seemingly limitless range of possibilities.

Call **01793 427 450** or visit **neptune.com** to browse John and Emma's beautiful range of designs.

AT HOME WITH...

*John & Emma
Sims Hilditch*



We chat to the founder and MD of Neptune, John Sims Hilditch and his wife, Emma, the Creative Director

Starry NIGHT

*Bring the beauty of the bonfire indoors
with a blaze of fiery copper and
a midnight sky backdrop*

Edited by **JESSICA PANTON**



Gold hexagon tray, £22.50; copper hexagon tray, £39.50, Oliver Bonas



EDITOR'S CHOICE

Tom Dixon plum ice bucket, £200, Amara

Alhambra frame, £25; Alhambra print double duvet set, £60; Matalasse navy bedspread, £80; Oman antique brass pendant, £150, all Linea Alhambra at House of Fraser



Aissa sofa, from £2,080, Sofa.com



Gilded drip cushion, £148, Jonathan Adler

PAINT PALETTE

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Lovers Knot wallpaper, £52
per roll, Harlequin

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Levin ceiling light, £240; Puccini dining chair, £299; Monaco rug, £525; Puccini extending dining table, £1,699, all John Lewis



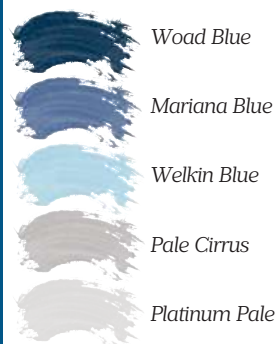
DINNER TIME

Hibernata tableware collection at George Home

PAINT PALETTE

For a softer scheme, decorate in a pretty palette of muted blue and grey tones from Fired Earth.

0845 366 0400, firedearth.com



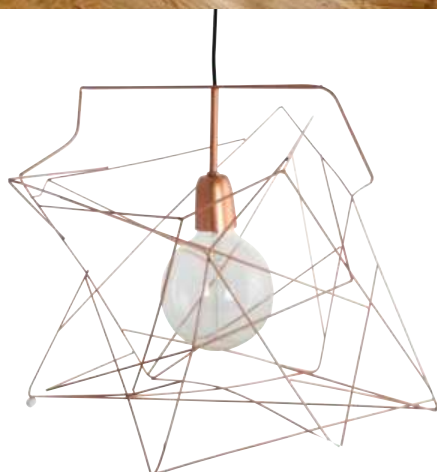
Bitu glassware, dinnerware and gold decorations at House of Fraser

3 FABRIC MUST-HAVES

- Milori Blue fabric, POA, Knightsbridge Collection at Art of the Loom
- Orkney fabric in Denim, £22.50 per m, Just Fabrics
- Estella wallpaper, POA, Nina Campbell at Osborne & Little

Stockists

- AMARA 0800 587 7645, amara.com
- ART OF THE LOOM 01200 427 744, artoftheloom.co.uk
- GEORGE HOME 0800 952 3003, direct.asda.com
- HARLEQUIN 0845 123 6815, harlequin.uk.com
- HOUSE OF FRASER 0345 602 1073, houseoffraser.co.uk
- JONATHAN ADLER 020 7589 9563, uk.jonathanadler.com
- JOHN LEWIS 0345 604 9049, johnlewis.com
- JUST FABRICS 0800 368 8532, justfabrics.co.uk
- OLIVER BONAS 020 8974 0110, oliverbonas.com
- OSBORNE & LITTLE osborneandlittle.com
- ROCKET ST GEORGE 01444 253 391, rocketstgeorge.co.uk
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CLOSING DATE: 13th November 2015.

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Whether you're in need of a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, or just looking for a change of scenery, the Yew Tree Barn is the perfect place to escape the daily drudgery with family and friends. Located in the picturesque rural village of Worlingworth in Suffolk, this luxury cottage barn is steeped in history and surrounded by elegant countryside, which is transformed into a wonderland come winter.

Converted in 2011, parts of the residence have been kept true to its heritage with traditional wooden beams and plasterwork, which have been incorporated into a luxurious layout with contemporary fittings, such as underfloor heating for keeping cosy. The barn is self-catering, so guests are free to make themselves at home, while the ground floor features a twin bedroom with an en-suite bathroom, a ground-floor WC and another bedroom suite featuring a king-size bed and shower room. A glorious open area embraces the full-height of the barn, laid

out before a modern kitchen, dining area and an open mezzanine with an additional seating area, ideal for relaxing and taking in the scenic environment. A cleverly designed



staircase means you can pass your eye over the panoramic view of the wonderful surroundings on your way up, where you'll find the first floor master suite and en-suite bathroom. The charming enclosed courtyard offers outdoor furniture, creating the perfect

setting for enjoying an evening meal, a light lunch or a glass of wine in the elements.

If you fancy venturing beyond this historic home, head into the centre of the village where you'll find The Swan, a cosy thatched-roof pub, or head to one of the many paths in the Worlingworth Wayfinder, which provides 17 miles of easy-to-follow walks through a gently rolling, open landscape of arable fields, grazing meadows and ancient greens. Within half hour, you can also reach the pretty Suffolk seaside towns of Aldeburgh and Southwold, where you can enjoy a brazing beach walk or warm the cockles in one of the many cosy pubs with locally brewed ales.

We're offering one lucky reader the chance to take up to seven guests for a week-long break to this idyllic home, from 11th-18th December, perfect for a festive break or a pre-Christmas getaway to kick off the holiday season. For more information on this country accommodation, call **01728 638 962** or visit bestofsuffolk.co.uk

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If you're a dog owner, you'll know how messy the house can get after those muddy winter walks, but with the new SEBO EI Pet Vacuum Cleaner, which provides a quiet, powerful clean, the clean-up will be a breeze. The internal airways are extremely smooth, so air moves through the system efficiently for an exceptionally quiet machine with excellent suction power. Ideal for family homes, the onyx black EI Pet has easy-glide castors and a selection of on-board tools to help clean every corner of your home, while the filtration keeps those pet hairs and dust locked inside. With a generous 3.5ltr bag and 10.8m cleaning range, the pet model features the SEBO kombi cleaning head, a floor turbo brush to easily lift pet hair and a stair and upholstery turbo nozzle. Two lucky readers will win one of these, worth £259.95 each. For further information on SEBO products call **01494 465 533** or visit **sebo.co.uk**

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National Garden Gift Vouchers make the perfect present for green-fingered family and friends, allowing them to choose the gifts they want. Whether it's plants and shrubs for brightening up flower beds, garden furniture, outdoor accessories, or simply new pots and containers for an instant patio makeover, there's a wealth of items to take your fancy. The vouchers can be used in over 2,000 retail outlets around the UK, including Dobbies, Hilliers, Notcutts, Squire's and Homebase and hundreds of independent garden nurseries. One lucky reader will win £500 worth of vouchers to spend. For further information, call **0371 384 3237** or visit **thevouchergarden.co.uk**



Win
a pair
of tickets

SHOW TIME

Leading creative crafts show organiser, ICHF Events, presents Simply Christmas at ExCeL, London, from 19th-21st November. The fabulous show offers visitors a unique shopping experience with a variety of gifts, crafts and festive food and drink to choose from. Visitors can browse the latest craft supplies or shop for beautiful handmade gifts from hundreds of exhibitors. Stitching, sewing and hobbycrafts will feature for the first time alongside Crafts for Christmas with all the latest supplies and ideas. The Festive Food and Drink aisle is perfect for any foodie, with a fabulous selection of festive treats, such as handmade chocolates, jams, cheeses, chutneys and cakes. To celebrate the return of this fantastic show, we have teamed up with ICHF Events to offer **25 readers** the chance to win a pair of tickets. Call **01425 277 988** or visit **ichfevents.co.uk** to find out more.

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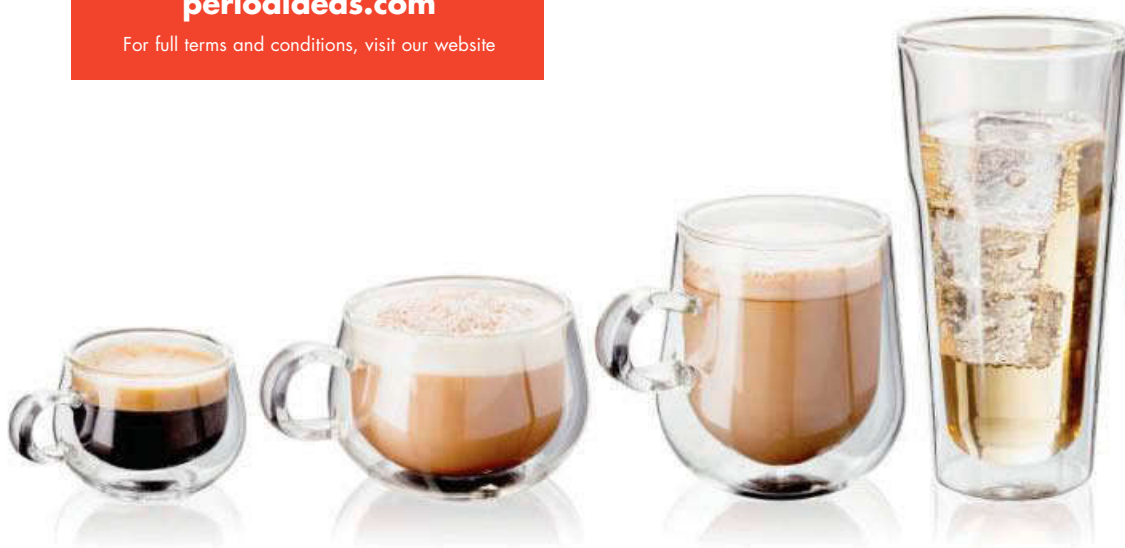


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CRYSTAL CLEAR

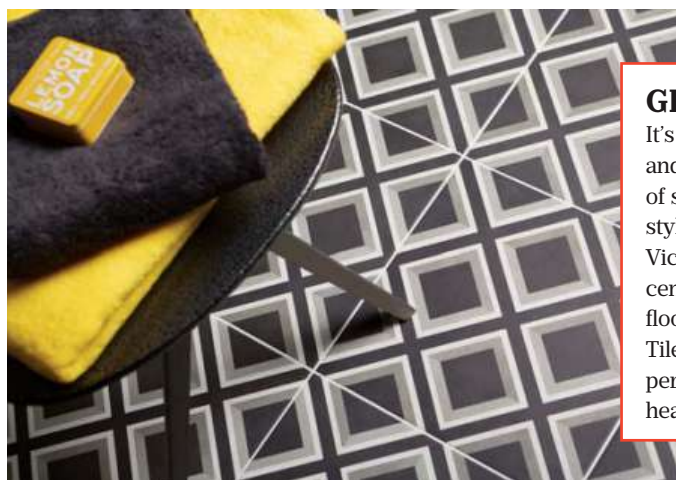
Judge Cookware's beautiful range of Double Walled Glassware is available in eight varieties, from tumblers to glass coffee mugs. The new collection has a thermally insulated air pocket design meaning hot drinks retain heat for longer, while the outside remains cool to touch. Cold drinks can stay icy, while the outer glass will remain condensation-free, so there's no need for the clutter of coasters. Made from scratch-resistant borosilicate glass, each vessel is dishwasher safe.

14 readers will win a bundle of this innovative glassware. **0117 940 0000**, judgcookware.co.uk

10
to win

LIGHT UP

Shorter days means evening hobbies can go by the wayside in winter. But with the Smart Lamp D20 from the Daylight Company, you can stitch, sew and craft in comfort at any time that suits you. The handy lamp can change colour temperature, with five dimmable settings to suit the lighting in your surroundings and a twistable shade which allows you to direct the light where you need it. It is lightweight and portable so is ideal for travelling or taking to classes. It is also USB compatible and is perfect for reading, crafting and a variety of handy hobbies. We're offering **10 readers** the chance to win one of these fantastic and practical pieces, worth £59 each. To find out more about Daylight's™ full range of products, call **020 8964 1200** or visit daylightcompany.com



GROUND FORCE

It's crucial in any interior scheme to lay the right foundations and at British Ceramic Tile, you have all the tools and a variety of styles to suit your home. It offers many decorative designs in an array of styles, such as Mary, which embraces the popular style characteristics of the Victorian era. With a bold print inspired by the eclectic designs of old 19th century terraces, Mary's pattern tiles can add depth and drama for a feature floor and are available at £36 per m². We've teamed up with British Ceramic Tile to offer one reader the chance to win 14m² of Mary tiles, worth over £500, perfect for a flawless floor update. For more details, call **01626 834 774** or head to britishceramictile.com

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Sitting pretty

Win a pair of stylish bar stools from kitchen and furniture master, Chalon, worth over £1,000!

Whether you're cooking, cleaning or catching up with family and friends, your kitchen is sure to see a lot of activity. It's the centre of creativity, a place you pass through countless times a day, but also where your family comes together and important processes take place that help to run your home. If you're redecorating, renovating, or simply looking for stylish finishing touches, Chalon, the original hand-crafted freestanding kitchen company, has a wealth of options and expertise to get the hub of your home in great shape.

Founded in 1978, Chalon understands that the kitchen is designed around key components, such as the worktable, sink dresser, breakfast bar and cupboards. These zones need to work together to create a logical space that flows well and

complements your lifestyle. Ideal for period properties, Chalon's stunning style is based on 18th and 19th century country furniture, influenced by French, Scandinavian and Irish designs. To create this authentic, aged feel, Chalon offers four distressed finishes, which are achieved by carefully applying up to nine processes by hand.

While its original range suits a traditional home, the designer collection has been developed to fit a more modern property and features fittings to suit smaller spaces too. There is also a variety of occasional furniture, as well as

The true authenticity of Chalon furniture reflects the exceptional mastery of its craftsmen

pretty pieces for bedrooms and bathrooms if you're looking to furnish other areas in your abode. Browse before you buy at Chalon's showrooms in London, St Albans, Harrogate, Bristol and Hambridge, where it also offers a no obligation design and quote service.

We've teamed up with Chalon to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a pair of beautiful bar stools, worth £589 each. Perfect for sitting at a kitchen island or breakfast bar, they are made from solid wood with turned legs and spindles, and will be hand-painted in your choice of 80 colours with your chosen level of distress. For more details on the beautiful range, call **0800 160 1978** or visit **chalon.com**

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Classic features and modern design come together in the Chester kitchen thanks to the creative use of different colours. It is priced from £15,500 at Caple. **0117 938 1900**, caple.co.uk

Bright & beautiful

How to choose the perfect colourful companion for your period home

Think of a quintessentially English kitchen and you're probably picturing yourself padding across a flagstone floor, sunlight flickering through the window as you walk over to the Aga sitting cosily amid classic hand-painted cabinetry. Yet, ironically, painted kitchens are currently being hailed as trendy style-setters, as the fashion for minimal kitchens makes way for rooms full of personality and individual touches.

The appeal of painted designs is simple – these kitchens are timeless yet versatile offering oodles of charm or clean-cut lines. The colour choices are endless from smoky greys to head-turning reds, and can effortlessly be refreshed when the cabinetry begins to look more shabby than chic, or updated entirely if you fancy a new look.

Neutral tones of ivory, cream and soft stone have long been favoured for kitchen cabinetry. Their beauty in utility certainly strikes a chord in kitchen design. The UK kitchen industry owes a massive debt to Charlie Smallbone, the co-founder of Smallbone of Devizes, who made the pine farmhouse kitchen cool. His interpretation of country style paved the way for a new wave of nostalgia, which chimed in perfectly with Laura Ashley's textiles. By the 1980s, statement kitchens were status symbols and despite precarious economic times, people are still prepared to spend plenty of money on the hub of the home. This is where the so-called Shaker kitchen comes into its own. Thanks to the simplicity of its design, it can work in modern or traditional settings and you can

even repaint it or alter the handles to give it a make-over.

The team at Naked Kitchens will help you find the right design to work in your space so you can have a bespoke kitchen without breaking the bank. The company is based in Norfolk and you might even find an ex-display kitchen which meets your needs so do have a look at nakedkitchens.com or call the team on 01328 838 854.

Just as it can take time to appreciate the designs of previous generations, you may have shyed away from Shaker thinking it was too vanilla for your tastes. You may be pleasantly surprised by how you can adapt it to the style of your house. Eye-level units can rapidly lose their appeal if you are short of stature so consider replacing them with some



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open shelving for a more informal feel.

Remember that you will be living with your cabinetry all year around so painting your woodwork in an 'it' shade of fuchsia or orange may jar when you're pottering around your kitchen on a dull November morning. Go for gentle, earthy colours which will be soothing and if you absolutely have to have something lilac in your kitchen, consider introducing colour on an island unit, at first.

The lesson to take from Shaker-style is that some things are popular for a reason, they are easy to live with and familiar, just like the four musical chords which dominate popular and folk music. Familiarity doesn't have to breed contempt, as long as a classic design can continue to evolve. There are many variations on the Shaker-style door so have a good look at all the options available.

The doors can be inset (so that they are inset into the cabinet box and framed like a piece of furniture) or overlayed (meaning they are attached over, thus covering the carcass). A mix of the two can work if you want to make a wallmounted cabinet stand out, but remember inset doors can eat up extra inches.

1 The Timeless range by Funktional brings a classic feel to any home, so you can find your perfect match. **020 8341 2020, funktionalkitchens.co.uk**

2 A charming rustic look is the key to the Miton Sage kitchen, priced from £13,000 at Second Nature. **01325 505 539, sncollection.co.uk**

3 Artisan cabinetry, priced from £15,000 at John Lewis of Hungerford. **0700 278 4726, john-lewis.co.uk**

4 A handmade free-standing island unit is a great way to add country style to your home, £POA, at John Willies. **01425 403 320, john-willies.com**

5 Complement your painted kitchen with a stunning reconditioned oven from our friends at West Country Cookers. **01548 830 069, westcountrycookers.com**

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Stay in style with this stunning DL Momentum grey pendant with chrome top. Its neutral base colour will seamlessly suit any interior scheme and is priced at £130, from Amara. **0800 587 7645, amara.com**



This Studio pendant light in satin steel has a wide funnel shape which throws light out, perfect for brightening up darker rooms. Also available in black, this trendy light is designed to create a dramatic impact, ideal for a statement centrepiece. Priced at £69. **03442 571 888, made.com**



The Guerrein collection has been designed with mercury chrome glass to create a striking dancing light pattern when lit. This beautiful range is available in a three-light pendant, a one-light pendant and a table lamp. **0333 014 3357, diy.com**



These brushed chrome finish spotlights feature a decorative rope detail cable, behind the fully adjustable heads. Supplied with 4.5W LED lamps, this is a great fitting with modern energy saving LED technology to light a kitchen. **01908 691818, franklite.net**

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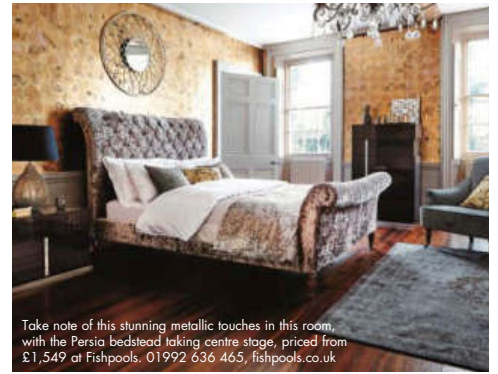


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Luxury alpaca duvets priced from £149 a double duvet, at The Wool Room, 01780 461 217, thewoolroom.com



Take note of this stunning metallic touches in this room, with the Persia bedstead taking centre stage, priced from £1,549 at Fishpools, 01992 636 465, fishpools.co.uk



An antique bed is a glorious addition to a period home with a superb range available at Bedsteads, 01275 464 114, bedsteads-uk.co.uk

Comfort ZONE

How to ensure the master suite meets your needs

The bedroom is one of the most personal rooms in the house and a space which it is vital to make uniquely your own. Remember how much teenagers like to make their own havens a private space which is a reflection of their personal taste? It's interesting to note that in the past the bedroom was often seen as the best room in the house, with the bed itself an important status symbol, so it is no wonder that up until the last century in rural France, bedrooms were used as places to receive guests. Indeed what could be a better sign of intimacy than to invite your best friend into your bedroom?

Today, leading hotel companies go to great lengths to give their rooms an inviting ambience although most executives will admit there is little glamour in long haul travel miles away from friends and family. Pillow menus, state-of-the-art showers and the best biscuits may make an hotel room something to boast about on Facebook but when it comes down to it, as Dorothy in *The Wizard in Oz*, discovers 'There's no place like home' – especially when it is a home you have made yourself.

PERFECT BALANCE

Bedrooms need to balance storage and comfort. They also need to be versatile enough to be a sheltering space for bed rest if you're not feeling 100 per cent as well as a place for a little romance with someone special. Essentially, this needs to be a feel-good room



An Artisan tall and wide chest painted in Pearl is a super storage solution, priced from £1,385 at John Lewis of Hungerford, 0700 278 4726, john-lewis.co.uk

in every sense of the word, so take a good look at your room and streamline what you've got. Any tired or stained linen needs to be given the heave-ho and it could even be time for a new bedding set. Comfort is key as we deal with the sweeping changes of mid-life and beyond. You may find that wool is a more breathable alternative to synthetic fibres and be inspired by the collection at The Wool Room (01780 461 217, thewoolroom.com).

Turning to storage, reorganising your wardrobe by colour might give you some great new ideas for putting outfits together or encourage you to donate clothes you're no longer so fond of to charity. Also consider any ornaments and artwork you have out on display – if you're no longer noticing them or enjoying them it's a sure sign you need a change. Really think about what you'd like to see on the bedside table when you wake up rather than being faced with an empty mug of Horlicks and a to-do list for the morning. Finally, beware of having a chair in your bedroom, as it can quickly become a dumping ground for dressing gowns, spare jackets and the dog's blanket.



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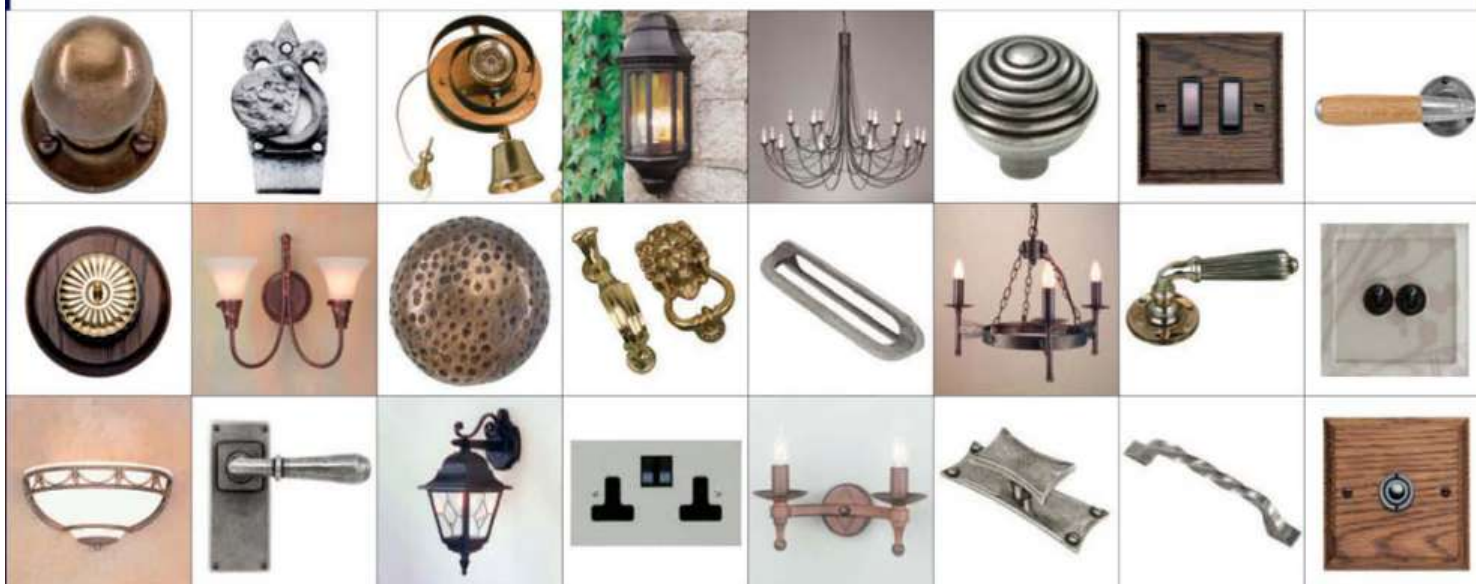


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RISE & SHINE

This Red alarm clock will add a splash of colour to any bedroom space. A perfect present for those poor time-keepers, it's priced at £4.99. **01923 473 561, homesense.com**



PLAY A PART

Let the games begin this Christmas with Ridley's Games Room. This limited edition metallic charades set is available at £7.95 and will provide hours of festive fun. **01225 789 909, wildandwolf.com**

HOUSE OF CARDS

Whether you're enjoying a game or sitting down to dinner, you can protect your table with these trendy full-deck coasters, £68, from Jonathan Adler. **uk.jonathanadler.com, 020 7589 9563**



LITTLE SURPRISES

Pile your presents into these wonderful Santa Sacks from Betsy Benn. Sure to bring a touch of style to your tree and much excitement on Christmas morning. Priced at £10 each. **01242 570 731, betsybenn.co.uk**



FARMHOUSE CHIC

This country style ceramic hen mug is perfect for any tea-lover and will bring rural-charm to a kitchen. Priced at £6. **01572 759 190, ellajames.co.uk**



CUDDLE UP

This luxurious hot water bottle cover features a layered lace pattern in striking shades, topped with a decorative bow for a glamorous home accessory. Priced at £35 from LauraLoves Design. **01732 369 509, lauralovesdesign.com**

FESTIVE FILLERS

Get ahead of the game this Christmas with our guide to Yuletide gifts



THREE'S A CROWD

This festive trio of candle houses is ideal for adding some Yuletide charm to a windowsill or table, priced from £8.55 from The Scandinavian Gift Shop. **01436 673 623, scandinaviashop.co.uk**



FLORAL FANCY

This small make-up bag will suit anyone on-the-go and has waterproof lining with PVC on the outside, so is easy to wipe clean. Displaying a beautiful William Morris Golden Lily floral design, this handy bag is available at £9.99. **01423 815 800, laurasbeau.co.uk**



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FLY AWAY

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HANGING OUT

This glittering wreath is great for those who like a luxurious welcome, priced at £26 from The Contemporary Home. **0845 130 8229, tch.net**



DINING DECOR

This brushed gold 3D reindeer napkin ring will blend with a variety of table linen schemes, whether you've opted for traditional bold hues, or a more modern and understated look. Available from Roman At Home at £3.25. **0845 052 5152, romanathome.com**



DECK THE HALLS

Fill your home with festive style with these Christmas decorations



OH DEER

This pair of enchanting tealight holders displays magical leaping reindeer in a distressed silver metal finish on lime wood bases. They're perfect for a mantelpiece or side table as the silhouettes create wonderful shadows when the candles are lit, priced at £29.95. **01206 864 260, redlilly.co.uk**



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These stunning gold sparkle hanging fan decorations will bring a celebratory feel to any festive party. Each pack contains three decorations, priced at £7.99. **0845 680 2975, gingerray.co.uk**



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MANE COURSE

Bring the outdoors in with this Puddin' Head placemat, £12.50, from Period Features. Picturing a striking lion motif, this accessory is sure to add a traditional charm to your Christmas dining space. **01538 372 202, periodfeatures.co.uk**



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Below Heritage Skye fabric in Burnt Orange, £49.95pm 01943 873181, moon.co.uk



A Scottish scheme wouldn't be complete without tartans – use bold blues and vibrant red checks

As winter draws in the weather can make us want to hunker down and hibernate. The north of the country might get the worst of the chill, but it's also a great source for interior inspiration if you take a cue from Scotland's wilderness. The highland hues of deep green, mauve, mulberry and heather, paired with the amber orange tones of a high-latitude low-lying sun, create the perfect seasonal palette.

Look further to the Scottish countryside and embrace the bonnie outdoors by introducing elements of highland cattle to your interiors with sheepskin rugs and cowhide underfoot, or dress the walls with stags and antlers. Reflect aspects of nature throughout your interiors and accessorise further with animal motifs, taxidermy, and woodland

creatures, or pick pine cones, twigs, firs and foliage from forest walks to use as wee decorative centrepieces.

Of course, a Scottish scheme wouldn't be complete without tartans and tweeds. Pay homage to the Scottish flag with bold blues, or create a seasonal backdrop with traditional vibrant red checks which will set the scene for a New Year chorus of Auld Lang Syne.

For a cosy and contemporary feel, layer plaid fabrics with chunky knits, soft furs, cashmeres and woollen textures, which will all help create a relaxing, snug ambience. Printed fabrics with throws and cushions are an easy way to change a room's décor – pile your sofa with some tartan textiles to give a nod to the trend. To create a truly tactile interior decorate with a feature wall in textured tartan wallpaper

or fix wooden slats to a wall to emulate a cosy log cabin in your scheme.

For a warm and welcoming scene, with a classic feel, combine tartan patterns with rustic wooden furniture, leather, and velvets in front of an open fire. Dark wood will add drama for a rich winter scene, while more earthy, natural tones of blonde wood and wicker will convey a softer Alpine-chalet theme. A heritage piece of furniture, such as a dark wooden chest, or an antique armchair upholstered in tartan, will add a finishing flourish.

Let a wood-burning stove take centre stage and illuminate your scheme in an burnt-orange hue from the fire embers. Just add a slab of shortbread, a steaming mug of hot chocolate, or even a glass of Highland whiskey, and you will have created your perfect rural escape.



Antler collection: floor lamp, £599; five light ceiling pendant, £798; wall light, £138, all David Hunt Lighting. **01608 661590**, davidhunt-lighting.com

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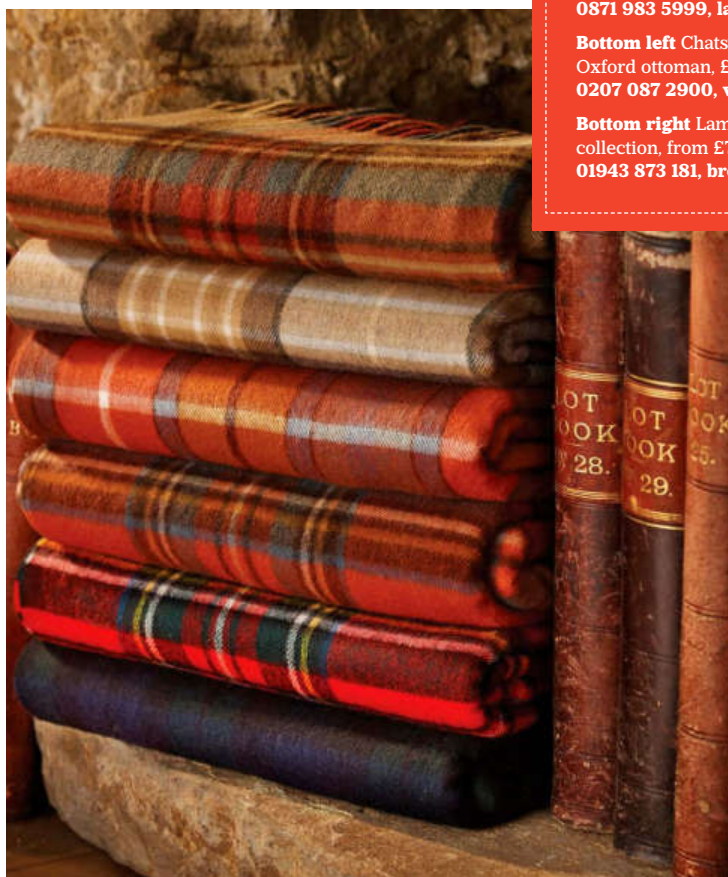


Left Catherine Lansfield stag bed linen, £18 for double, Tesco. **0800 505 555, tesco.com**

Right Ambleside check chair, £900, Kubu wicker trucks, set of two, £100; tartan cushion, £45; Cranberry gallery wall clock, £60; Cranberry Floral Wallpaper, £40 per roll, all Laura Ashley. **0871 983 5999, lauraashley.com**

Bottom left Chatsworth Oxford ottoman, £465, Within. **0207 087 2900, withinhome.com**

Bottom right Lambswool tartan throw collection, from £75, Bronte by Moon. **01943 873 181, brontebymoon.co.uk**





BURNING UP

Jessica Panton chats to Arada Stoves to find out what the heating experts have in store for warming up this winter

With the inevitable November chill creeping in over the next few weeks, it's time to spark the fire into action and throw some long-awaited heat into our homes. With modern technology infringing more on our everyday lives, it's surprising how this traditional feature has stood the test of time since it originated centuries ago, when families used to sleep around a central fireplace, gravitating to their property's heat source. Arada Stoves, the UK's leading stove manufacturer, is passionate about keeping the traditions of the past alive, while understanding how the stove has evolved with the changing requirements of people's living spaces.

For centuries, fires and fireplaces have been a vital component of British homes, but the changing demands of properties has resulted in the increasing popularity of wood-burning

and multi-fuel stoves, which are more than four times as efficient as an open fire. As well as heating homes effectively, it is crucial for stoves to produce fewer emissions to reduce the negative impact they have on the environment, whilst being cost effective and providing a luxurious centrepiece in any abode.

Having been at the forefront of stove manufacturing for 30 years, and seeing how the modern stove has changed first-hand, Arada has adapted its products to meet the needs of a 21st century lifestyle, such as the Farringdon, which features cutting-edge

stove technology. This compact wood stove boasts exceptional efficiency ratings, already exceeding 2022 EU requirements for clean-burning and has a stylish and contemporary look, transforming any space with its clean-cut lines, large fire viewing glass and sleek detachable handle.

COVER ALL BASES

Keeping your home fires burning year after year, the experts at Arada recognise that heating products need to offer far more than function. Your stove, like many key components of your

Arada handcrafts its stoves from its Devon factory and has adapted its products to meet the needs of a 21st century lifestyle



ARADA STOVES

stocks a huge variety of wood-burning, multi-fuel and boiler stoves suitable for every shape and size space. To find your perfect stove, call **01297 35700** or visit **aradastoves.com**



house, needs to complement your décor to maintain the comfort and personal style of your interiors. Arada offers a wealth of design options for different property types including stoves from the Ecoburn Plus range, which features a selection of inset and freestanding options. The popular Ecoburn Plus 5 stove is now available with elegant colour options of Anthracite, Grey or Devon Cream, whilst the Ecoburn Plus 5 and 7 models have been extended to include DEFRA exempt versions, ideal for homes in the UK's Smoke Control areas.

If you're in need of a stunning seasonal centrepiece, we love Arada's brand-new i600 Slimline Freestanding collection, offering a compact stove body and 5kW output, as well as a vast viewing glass and a wide door for a striking view of the flames. Available in short and mid-heights, these new additions



combine the latest technology, such as direct air compatibility with modern controls, making it simple and easy to use.

PICK & CHOOSE

Arada ensures there is an array of design choices so you can find the perfect heating device for your home. The state-of-the-art i400 Freestanding range, for instance is now available in three different heights, each with impressive controllability, whilst also coming in a range of colour combinations. If your space is limited, the mid and tall models feature an integrated log store, so you won't need to fill your fireside with clutter. Featuring a sleek body, a large glass viewing window and a convector jacket for increased heat distribution, the i400F is great for a more modern home.



When you invest in Arada, you're investing in your future, as every stove is built to last. Each one has the longest guarantee in the industry, which lasts five years for boiler stoves and a lifetime for all other models.

All Arada stoves are designed to work at optimum efficiency, helping to reduce fuel costs and quickly distribute heat throughout your property. With any Arada stove, you can rest assured in the high quality and longevity of your home's heating.

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1 FIRE FOCAL-POINT

A fire will naturally become a room's focal-point, so why not go to town? Create a complete fireplace with a solid oak surround, porcelain tiled interior and multi-fuel stove with the award-winning Glenmore Suite from Oer Fireplaces. This complete bespoke set, priced at £2,225, is made-to-measure to fit any size and style of room and is the latest winner of Product of the Year at the industry international exhibition. For UK stockist details contact **01782 319 350**. oerfireplaces.com

10 OF THE BEST...

FIREPLACE IDEAS

Get all fired up for the cosy season ahead with our tips on wood-burning stoves and fireplaces

2 MARBLEOUS

If you want a fireplace which makes a style statement, head to Montpellier Marble Ltd, where you'll find gems like this fabulous Giovanna fireplace with integrated columns and mantelpiece. It is hand-carved from premium Crème Classico marble and featured with the Bellfires Derby Cassette gas fire – a perfect combination providing maximum efficiency. **01242 582 777**, montpellier.co.uk



3 CLEAR CONSCIENCE

If you live in one of the UK's Smoke Control Areas, fear not, there's still a fire out there for you. The Ecoburn Plus DEFRA stoves from Arada have become a firm clean-burning favourite. With free-standing models available in all sizes and colours, an Ecoburn stove will become a focal point of any room regardless of size and style.

01297 35700, arada.uk.com





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4 | FLAMING HOT

Forget your misconceptions about gas fires, the latest models look superb. Nu-Flame's modern energy-efficient take on gas fires, mixed with period style, ensures they are an essential fixture if your home doesn't have a chimney. This stylish glass-fronted balanced flue fire is completely sealed from the room to remove combustion gases to the outside of your property, whilst radiating warmth and looking good at the same time.

020 8254 6802, nu-flame.co.uk



5 | PERFECT MATCH

By using historical reproduction data Capital Fireplaces has designed a new range which fuses period design with specialist manufacturing techniques to perfectly fit with the age of your property. The talented design team replicates the characteristics of the specific eras to create stunning mantels in natural stone.

01462 818 392, capitalfireplaces.co.uk, sovereignfireplaces.co.uk



6 | LOG STORE

To burn efficiently and safely, logs are best kept dry, so make a home for yours with a wooden log store. Not only will it keep your winter stock in the best possible state it will also be a stylish addition to your garden. This design from Garden Trading, priced at £165, is completely weatherproof with a robust build, allowing plenty of room to house your firewood.

0845 608 4448, gardentrading.co.uk



7 | CAST YOUR EYE

With a range of designs in all manner of period influences and styles, Carron Cast Iron Fireplaces offer beauty and functionality. Be it inserts or combinations you're after, Carron has a fantastic collection to match any décor. It has also just introduced a collection of new surrounds in oak, teak and for the first time stainless steel, to help match any project or styling. **0808 129 2224, carrron.uk.net**



8 | FINISHING DETAIL

Make sure your fireplace is in keeping with your property with the help of the expert craftsmen at Thistle & Rose, who specialise in the reproduction and restoration of Adam fireplaces, which first became fashionable in 18th century Scotland. The Eagle Victrix pictured below became popular as a fireplace pattern after Horace Walpole acquired his mighty fowl for his London villa, Strawberry Hill. The marble original had come from excavations of the baths of Caracalla in Rome.

01450 376 928, thistleandrose.co.uk



9 | HOT STUFF

In ordinary stoves, air comes up beneath the fuel, so that smoke, heat and waste gases are dispersed from the top of the fuel into the chimney. Dunsley Heat, however, has switched the format around with its Yorkshire Stove so that air enters above the fuel, sweeping in front of the window for a truly astonishing swirling flame pattern, igniting temperatures of up to 1,100°C. **01484 682 635, dunsleyheat.co.uk**

10 | BRANCHING OUT

The one complication to a wood-burning stove or an open fire is the effort it takes to get logs to the fireplace. But with Log Delivery there is now the equivalent of online grocery shopping, but for logs, with delivery services offered everyday, between 7am and 7pm. All wood from Log Delivery comes ready-to-burn, with less than 18% moisture content, so there's no need for drying them either.

020 8942 8881, log-delivery.co.uk



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RADIATING JOY

With winter on the way, make sure your radiators are ready to keep you warm

SALVAGE CHIC

The Victorians designed beautiful cast iron radiators, which we still love today. What's more, original salvaged models can not only be brought back to life and adapted to work with modern heating systems, but they can be easily refurbished to your tastes. Early 19th century columned radiators came in all shapes and sizes, and can be altered so that you have the correct size model to adequately heat any room or fit in tight nooks and crannies. Try Heritage Cast Iron Radiators, which has a huge collection of period radiators in stock waiting to be customised to suit your needs. **01435 868 289, heritagecastironradiators.com**



COLOUR CHANGE

You can always spruce up your radiators with paint. Make sure you find one that is suitable for radiators, such as this Brassica no 271 estate eggshell from Farrow & Ball. Either blend the colour into the wall, or give it a contrasting hue to stand out. **01202 876 141, farrow-ball.com**



WARM UP

Ensure your favourite towel is cosy after your shower with a classic heated rail. This Orbit Radiator from Bisque will also heat your bathroom at the same time, combining style and practicality. **020 7328 2225, bisque.co.uk**



MODERN MAGIC

Many home owners will replace their boilers at great expense, but only consider changing a radiator if it leaks or has corroded, although new radiators offer much greater energy



efficiency. You don't need to lose out on style as Feature Radiators' reproduction models emulate classic designs. Try the award-winning cast iron Etonian models in a variety of colours and sizes, priced from just £63. Used in many National Trust properties across the country, this range replicates a timeless look without breaking the bank. **01274 515 734, featureradiators.com**

HOT TIPS

If your radiators have spent most of the summer in hibernation, then make sure they're working properly and efficiently as soon as you can. Bleeding your radiators is essential as it releases any trapped air, so that the hot water fills the whole thing. Buy a radiator key for as little as 50p from your local hardware store and, with the heating turned off, release the air with a damp cloth over the hole.

BOLD CHOICE

Bear in mind that radiators can make a style statement in a room and if you want this to be the case then choose something that will fit even when the room is re-decorated, as you will probably want to change the interior before you change the radiator.

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The Elgin & Hall range includes beautiful marble fireplaces, as well as electric options which are ideal for transforming the style and feel of any room. The craftsmanship behind the elegant collection was established over 40 years ago when the models were handmade in the Yorkshire Dales workshops. The quality lives on in the range of timeless designs manufactured in the North East, some featuring the enduring properties of marble, all with simple and elegant designs creating a warm and welcoming effect. Elgin & Hall creations are available exclusively from appointed stockists around the country.

Michelle Tait, Be Modern

0191 455 3571, bemodern.com

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WINTER WARMERS

*Stay cosy this November with
handy tips for heating your home
from our industry insiders*

Bright spark

I'm looking for a new open fireplace to complement the living room in my thatched cottage. Can you help?

At Camelot, we specialise in high-performance open fires for private and commercial customers. Transform the atmosphere and appearance of any room in your cottage, farmhouse, barn conversion, period or self-build home with one of our period styled open fires. With five times more efficiency than a traditional open grate fire, we offer fires you can admire while they keep you warm. We believe in talking to people to understand their heating needs so we can create the right, traditional look to suit you and your home. Browse our website for case studies, galleries and great tips on how to choose a style of open fire for your home.

Paul Shaw, Camelot Real Fires

01905 820 181, camelotrealfires.co.uk



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The Italian La Nordica Thermo Rosa Liberty is a fantastic option – it's a range cooker that will run your central heating as well, providing many hot baths at the same time as all your baking. It has a large hob, with removable rings to cook directly on the flames for speedy wok frying, and an oven and firebox with large glass doors so you can keep an eye on what you're cooking. Priced at £2,120, it comes in beautiful handmade cream, burgundy or natural stone majolica tiles.

Corrabeth Bishop, Ludlow Stoves, 01584 861 628, ludlowstoves.co.uk



Spot the difference

Is it true that apart from the appearance, all stoves operate in the same way?

There are many subtle differences between the design and performance of stove models. Modern clean-burning wood stoves have an improved appearance and function than old ones, offering greater efficiencies. Traditional stoves often have a thin glass panel in a small door with a limited fire view and the flames can quickly disappear. However, an up-to-date stove, such as those from the Purevision HD range, will operate with a dramatic flame picture offering maximum view of the flame patterns. Purevision is the first stove brand in the UK to meet the 2022 Eco-Design standards too.

Dane Beckett, Charlton & Jenrick

0845 5195 991, charltonandjenrick.co.uk



Classic collection

I'm looking for a multi-fuel stove for my living room. Any thoughts?

I am particularly proud of our Island collection for wood and multi-fuel burning, featuring double doors with high-leg and store stand options. The single Quatroflow air control makes it easy to use and the converting grate can be operated with the doors closed, when the stove is fully loaded and under fire. Island stoves can be fitted with a smoke reducing kit that allows wood to be burnt in smoke control areas, making them DEFRA exempted appliances.

Ced Wells, Charnwood

01983 537 777, charnwood.com



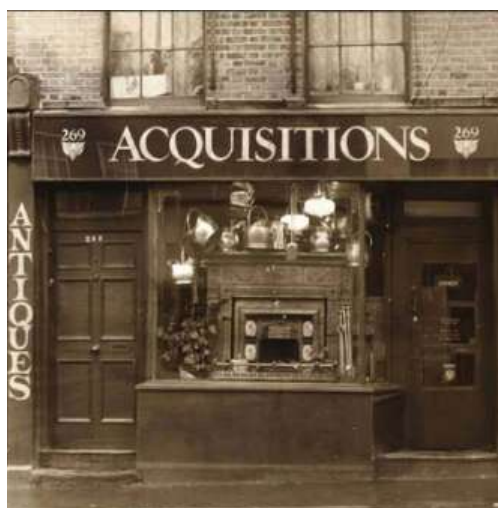
Safety first

I would like to protect my children and pets from the fireplace. What would you suggest?

At Garden Requisites, we offer a variety of elegant, sturdy guards, which can safely sit and stay around your stove, unlike folding ones. Based on traditional designs, our models are ideal for protecting children and pets due to the woven wirework mesh and rigid framework. Handmade to last a lifetime from our workshop in Bath, optional side fixings are available to prevent the guards from moving, creating an effective barrier between your stove and the rest of the room. Our fireguards can also be made-to-measure to fit the proportions of your fireplace.

Hilary Thurman, Garden Requisites

01225 851 577, garden-requisites.co.uk



Test of time

Can you help me find a matching functional fireplace to complement my period home?

At Acquisitions of London, we have a passion for perfection and maintaining design traditions by replicating original fireplaces. Our collection includes every material and style from marble to cast-iron, Georgian to contemporary, so you needn't miss out on stunning centuries-old designs. Rather than reproducing older models, we faithfully recreate fireplaces using authentic techniques and materials, continuing the lost art of traditional craftsmanship. Committed to original methods and now celebrating our 40th year, our options are perfect for a variety of period homes.

Jonathan Kennedy, Acquisitions of London

020 3627 9515, acquisitions.co.uk



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This year, Neil Oliver our favourite broadcaster, author, historian and archaeologist urges us all to make a few basic property checks before winter bites. Spending just a few minutes, or even a few pounds, to check up on and rectify minor problems could save property owners from having to spend thousands later when small issues become major headaches. Speaking on behalf of Britain's oldest heritage charity, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, who organise this annual campaign, Neil says: "When I travelled round the country for BBC's *Coast* series, the importance of protecting a building against the ravages of the wind and the weather was very apparent. Maintenance makes a difference – never put it off!" For more information and tips visit spab.org.uk



Timely tasks:

- Bleed your radiators and service your boiler ahead of heavy central heating usage
- Book in now for an appointment with your chimney sweep
- Clear gutters and drains of leaves, twigs and other seasonal debris

Building blocks

The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company is a family-run business that's dedicated to preserving the traditional methods of brickmaking. With a range of over 5,000 special shapes and 150 different sizes of facings, you're certain to find the perfect finish for your period home. The firm's previous projects include work for the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces, so you can be sure of the company's high quality craftsmanship. **01787 269232, bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk**

Roof rumours ►

The maintenance and hazards associated with thatched roofs often deter buyers, but NFU Mutual has come up with a few guidelines to keep your roof in shape and your worries at bay if you are looking to buy a thatched property. It claims that there are a wealth of misconceptions about thatched roofs, including the increased risk of fire, and it offers a number of tips on choosing and maintaining this material. For further advice call **0800 622 323** or visit nfumutual.co.uk



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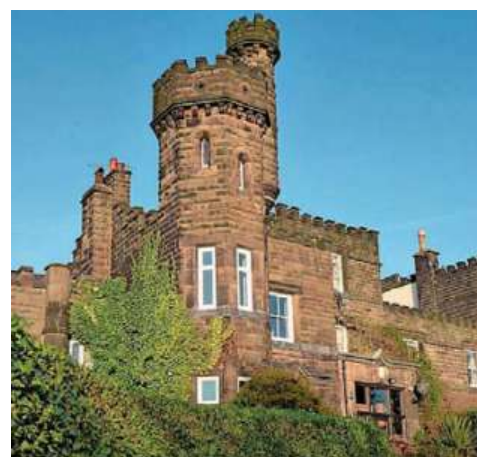
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Expert ADVICE

With over 30 years' of experience GBS Joinery has mastered the ability to combine new technology with traditional craftsmanship for the benefit of every customer. Nigel Hockin can be contacted on **0161 456 0501**. Visit the showroom on James Street in Stockport where the team can discuss your requirements and offer products and solutions. View examples of his team's work at gbsjoinery.co.uk



The Eyes of the Home

Working with listed buildings, conservation areas and period properties, GBS Joinery is expert at renovating traditional windows and doors with modern technology

Originally established in 1984, GBS Joinery has firmly carved its place as an industry leader within the specialised area of period window and door reproduction.

Throughout its thirty year history GBS Joinery has developed both an understanding and appreciation of the requirements that are involved when working on buildings of historic importance.

Now working closely with the National Trust and its many period properties, the GBS team is expert at replicating the look and feel of traditional windows and fixtures that are found in older listed buildings, conservation areas and National Parks.

The skilled staff and designers are trained in meeting exacting standards, and are keen to produce a variety of windows and doors,

whether it's traditional sliding sash and casement windows, double-glazed timber installations, to a range of period style doors and fixtures, which are all reproduced with the very best quality timber available, including the durable Accoya® long-life sustainable wood.

By embracing these latest cutting-edge materials and technology, the process and manufacture has improved without compromising on the craftsman's skill. GBS Joinery is always delighted to be involved and offer its extensive experience in total renovation projects, providing detailed drawings and access to its own library, as well as liaising with architects and local authority planning and conservation officers.

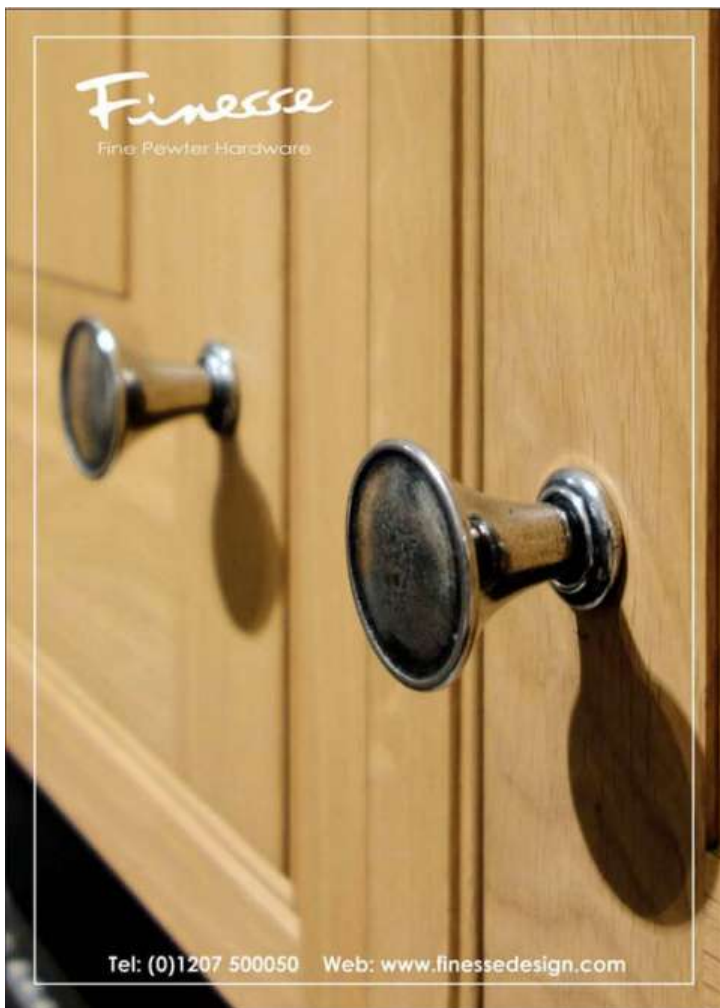
Based in Cheshire, owner Nigel Hockin, and the GBS Joinery team, are ideally placed for projects across Lancashire, Shropshire

and Staffordshire but are more than happy to travel around the country to meet customers whose houses range from modest Victorian terraces to country farmhouses, or even grand Georgian rectories.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

GBS Joinery has many years of experience at working within listed buildings and conservation areas. Everyone who works there understands that you appreciate how important it is to preserve and recreate windows and doors to their former glory in order to enjoy the splendour of your property's period features.

To keep the legacy and history of the original architecture, GBS Joinery embraces and reproduces style with huge attention to detail, to be enjoyed for years to come.



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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS MAKE AN ENTRANCE

Style your home with our expert guide to internal and exterior doors and door furniture



Secure and stylish

How can I make a great first impression and a fabulous entrance to my home whilst keeping it safe and secure?

A good quality front door can make a huge difference to the appearance of your house. When buying a new front door, it's important to choose something in keeping with the property, particularly if it is a period home. Choose a colour that reflects the tone of your home. Strong colours can make a statement, though the current trend is for light, cool colours, particularly heritage paints like French Grey, Duck Egg and Chartwell Green. Look for strong weather-seals and triple glazing on glass panels for an effective energy-saving performance. A strong timber core door will also keep the heat in and help with security. Our new timber Meridian door, pictured above, offers the highest spec in security, plus A-rated thermal efficiency to reduce heating bills, and looks great at the same time.

Ray McGrady, Safechoice

0800 024 6230, safechoice.co.uk



Handle with care

I'm looking for door handles to use throughout the house on traditional wooden doors. I would like them to complement one another without being identical. Could you suggest something?

Look for a range where you are able to vary the grip designs whilst maintaining the same body and rose detail. Traditionally, door handles would have been more ornate in the main rooms of the house, such as the drawing room and dining room. Perhaps look for more elaborate designs for your main doors and simpler styles for the rest of the house. The Bamboo, Rope and Ring Tail are popular designs, but if you want something plainer, go for the Tube. I would suggest using our Cocoa grip throughout with the Vintage Patina finish on the metal work, seen above.

Steve Roberts, Managing Director

0203 489 1040, turnstyledesign.com

Regal style

We're looking to sell our house soon and want to spruce up our internal doors without changing them all. Any tips?

Quality finishing touches can really help sell a property. You want your home to look smart, without incurring huge renovating costs. Look for timeless door hardware that you can add easily for selling purposes, and replace with the existing handles when you move! This Queen Anne style Mortice Knob is a quintessential design which has stood the test of time and adds that finishing detail to a room. A classic aesthetic which continues to appeal, so these are likely to suit your new doors when you move too. The FB507 Queen Anne Mortice Knob from Fulton & Bray is the latest addition to the 500 Series, a collection of traditional style ball knobs. Available in four classic finishes: polished brass, polished chrome, satin chrome and PVD nickel, they'll suit both period and modern properties.



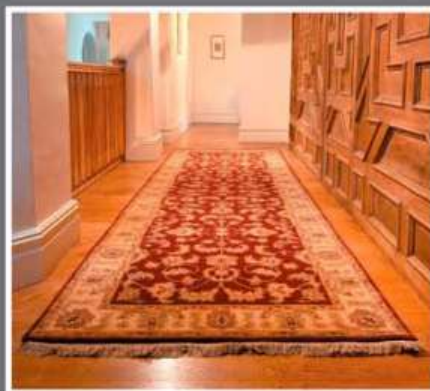
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01228 672 900, zoohardware.co.uk



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Colour splash

I want to add colour and jazz up my interior doors to make them all unique. Is this possible without painting the doors?

It is certainly not necessary to paint internal doors to bring about an eye-catching change to the look of a room. Often a colour door knob or sequence of coloured knobs, running through the internal doors can spark a real feeling of positive mood and bring a new feel to your home. In a neutral room the knob can be the colour pop that brings the room to life. For an elegant and glamorous-deco look we suggest these classic cut-glass knobs.

Robert Lancaster, Trinca-Ferro
07974 227 271, trinca-ferro.com



Light the way

We have just moved to a village sea-side property and the front door area is incredibly dark, especially now the days are getting shorter. Can you suggest some traditional-style exterior lighting?

A period exterior pendant is the perfect solution for lighting up a sheltered porch area. The traditional elegance of the nautical-inspired Wheelhouse Lantern, £196.49, is a slim, compact design, ideal if space is an issue, and will complement your scheme and an endless range of settings. Alternatively, the Windsor Pendant, £276.96 is a hexagonal lantern with six individual panes of glass that features fret work detail to the top of the fitting. If you are seeking an even brighter lantern, the classic chandelier-esque Chelsea 3-light pendant, £1014.68, will really lighten up your welcome home.

Mark Holloway, Holloways of Ludlow
020 7602 5757, hollowaysofludlow.com

Prying eyes

We would like to create a little more privacy as our townhouse is close to the footpath. We have shutters on our windows but can you suggest anything for the glass panes of our door?

As the first thing seen by passers-by, and visiting guests, the front door immediately conveys an impression of both you and your home's style, but you also don't want people to see inside at first glance. Consider window film as an affordable and simple option. Use the film on glass panes on the door and in the leadlight to prevent prying eyes but still allow the light to enter your hallway. Creating a feature out of your house name or number into your door design is growing in popularity and will not only look stylish and sophisticated but will also act as a screen. The Frostbrite® range is the ideal bespoke solution with a huge variety of styles and designs available. With prices starting from just £30, each order is created to your exact specifications and is computer cut for a precision finish.

Micky Calcott, The Window Film Company, 01494 794 477, windowfilm.co.uk



Brass knocker

I need to fit some replacement brass door handles that will be the same aged finish as the other door pieces. I do not want the shiny new-looking brass available. Where can I find these?



Brass ironmongery found in your local hardware DIY shop or on most online sites is brass with a lacquer coating, factory applied

to maintain the bright finish. A specialist retailer will be able to offer un-lacquered brass, antique finished brass or bronze door and window fittings, as well as bathroom accessories. Un-lacquered brass will slowly dull in colour to match your existing brass fittings. It is simply a matter of polishing un-lacquered brass with a good quality polish if you then want the sparkle. Also available is a range of un-lacquered or bronze finish bathroom accessories that will match old brass bathroom taps.

GJ Pearson Wright, Locks & Handles of Fulham Broadway
020 7751 3397, doorhandles.co.uk


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PIC OF THE MONTH

This month, we've selected this image sent in by Felicitations Vintage of its latest upcycled chairs. Send us in your latest makes or interior must-haves via our social media channels.



Halloween dining from Sainsbury's.
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sainsburys.co.uk

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FACEBOOK

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This month we're coveting midnight shades and looking to the dark skies for inspiration. We've been starstruck by the Luna astronomy range from George Home, with its vibrant flashes of metallic. Like us on Facebook for more seasonal style tips.



TWITTER

[@PeriodIdeas](https://twitter.com/PeriodIdeas)

We're getting ready for the party season with this striking Puccini cocktail cabinet from John Lewis' latest range. Follow us on Twitter for more of our interior finds, leading trends and the latest tips from our experts.



PINTEREST

pinterest.com/periodideas

Add some bold and mysterious glamour to your interiors for a seasonal style update. Discover more ideas to decorate your home this season with our Luxury Touches Pinterest board.



BLOG

periodideas.com

With the nights getting darker, shine a light on your interiors with advice on our blog on how best to illuminate your rooms from LightBulbs Direct. The blog is also a great place to find our latest competitions.




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0800 505 055, brintons.co.uk



PATTERN PERFECTION

While flooring can often be overlooked when styling your home, it's a great opportunity to inject some design detail into your décor. The geometric Victorian floor tile range is made up of individual tile pieces in various colours and shapes and comes in a number of shades, perfect for sprucing up underfoot.

01392 473 004, originalstyle.com



PERFECT FIT

This indoor and outdoor rug features a graphic pattern in classic ivory and is available in five sizes to fit any space. Made of polypropylene, Dash & Albert indoor and outdoor area rugs are ideal for high-traffic areas with great durability, providing protection for your floors all year round.

dashandalberteurope.com

FLOORS TO Adore

Get a fresh feel underfoot in time for festive soirées



IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

Reclaimed parquet flooring is the ultimate style in classic flooring. Whether you're decorating your home in a contemporary or traditional scheme, it brings a stylish touch to any room. As a salvaged material, it is environmentally friendly and also reasonably priced, offering great value underfoot.

Lindsay White, and his partner Sara Cox, run Parquet Parquet and can help you track down the unique floor of your dreams.

01507 313 470, parquet-parquet.co.uk



SUPER SAVINGS

Natural Image aims to keep costs to a minimum so doesn't sell through retail outlets or high street showrooms. These savings are reflected in its honest and fair prices, while all of its natural wood and stone flooring materials are sourced from the world's most environmentally conscious timber and stone suppliers and manufacturers.

All the flooring ranges can be viewed at its warehouse and showroom in Kent.

01622 840 420, stoneandwoodfloors.co.uk



FLOOR FILLER

Add the final flourish to your scheme with a beautiful rug from Oriental Rugs of Bath, perfect for dressing your floor with some colour for the winter. Its high-quality hand-made rugs offer beautiful worldwide designs which have been passed down through generations of carpet weavers. Its hand-spun wool, vegetable dyes and natural dying processes create beautiful, organic textiles.

01761 451 764, orientalrugsofbath.com


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6

1 Crate mate storage, £125, Loaf, 2 New England medium scatter cushion, £65, Furniture Village 3 New England Addison small footstool, £595, Furniture Village 4 New England Windham leather chair, £1,475, Furniture Village 5 Lambswool throw in chocolate, £120, Oscar & Eve 6 New England Hartford small fabric sofa, £1,195, Furniture Village

Where to buy

Find out more about the Autumn/Winter collection by calling **0800 804 8879** or visiting **furniturevillage.co.uk**. Call Loaf on **0845 468 0698** or browse the range at **loaf.com** For more details on Oscar and Eve's stylish products, head to **oscarandeve.co.uk**

HOME HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER
EDITOR'S CHOICE

Make the most of your abode with our selection of products, ideas and expert advice



OPENING NEW DOORS

Titchmarsh & Goodwin, which specialise in bespoke wooden furniture, is moving to new premises in London's Chelsea Design Quarter within the Parker & Farr sofa showroom. "We're delighted to be collaborating with a company which shares our ethos of high quality, British furniture," explains managing director Jamie Cooper. **01473 252 158, titchmarsh-goodwin.co.uk**

HAPPY HOUSEKEEPING

The National Trust's new *Manual of Housekeeping* covers the care of all kinds of objects, period items and antiques, as well as tips on how to maintain and decorate a historic property throughout the seasons. Available in hardback, £40. **0300 123 202, shop.nationaltrust.org.uk**



MAN APPEAL

Appease your man with this inviting Italian leather armchair, part of the Vintage Collection from The Chair People. With a feather-filled back and wrapped seat cushions you may find your other half asleep in this snug armchair for quite some time. **0845 124 2477, thechairpeople.co.uk**



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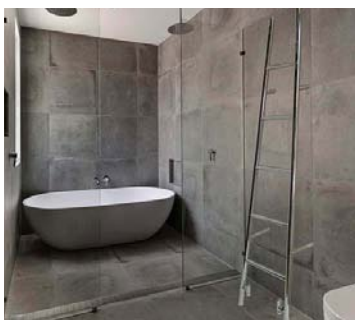


Antiqued stags head, £80.
01444 415 430, frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk

LUXE TUB

A hot soak is the perfect way to relax after a long winter's day, so why not splash out and invest in a luxury tub? Create a super-chic centrepiece in an open-plan bedroom/bathroom with this brass and wood Dory bath. We've added one to our Christmas list. **01400 263 310, hurlinghambaths.co.uk**





CLIMBING HIGH

Bring hotel quality to your bathroom with this new RYE stainless steel ladder towel rail. The tilt of the design allows more hanging space and can heat a large bathroom, replacing your existing radiator and providing a stunning focal-point.

01278 723 751,
omniabathrooms.co.uk



SALVAGE STYLE

A highlight of any salvage trip is a visit to the delightful Knutsford Antiques in the beautiful Cheshire. Full of high quality antiques, vintage and industrial furniture, it is the ideal location for uncovering that original item. If you're looking to upcycle a piece yourself the company also stocks Annie Sloan paints. **01565 632 743,**
antiquesknutsford.co.uk



RELIGHT your FIRE

Add these accompanying pieces to your fireside surround from The Barn

Antiques. This wonderful copper coal bin, £65, will be a handy fireplace partner alongside this handy French marbled allumettes box, which can be hooked to the wall to store your matches. **01789 721 399,**
barnantique.co.uk



UNIQUE FIND

Get your dining area ready for festive gatherings with this restored Louis table and chairs. Priced at £980, it's the most popular dining set by Unique Salvage Chic, who specialise in updating existing pieces in a choice of Farrow & Ball paints and Laura Ashley fabrics. Receive 10% off when quoting Period Ideas. Pre-order for Christmas deliveries by end of November.

01394 461 549, uniquesalvagechic.co.uk

BEST FOOT FORWARD

Keep your shoes, boots and wellies in tip-top condition and easily accessible with these stylish wooden shoe trees from Gentlemen's Hardware, priced at £29.99.

01225 789 909,
wildandwolf.com



ALL EARS

Deck your walls with on-trend animal prints with these new paintings from wildlife artist Sarah Pye. Not only will these create a woodland winter scene in your interior but they would also make a picture-perfect present this Christmas as well. **01507 525 871,**
thecountrystyle.co.uk



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

If you love spending time outside, enjoy the fresh air throughout winter with an outdoor fire. The Zero wood-burning fireplace is an ideal patio centrepiece for your patio, and would make a great addition for Bonfire Night. What's better, it also doubles up as a handy wood store for logs. **01803 840 066, bigfire.co.uk**



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December issue

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find out Margaret Powling's insights on letters and diaries



Barra small sofa in Melron Herringbone, Slate, £1,299, Marks & Spencer.
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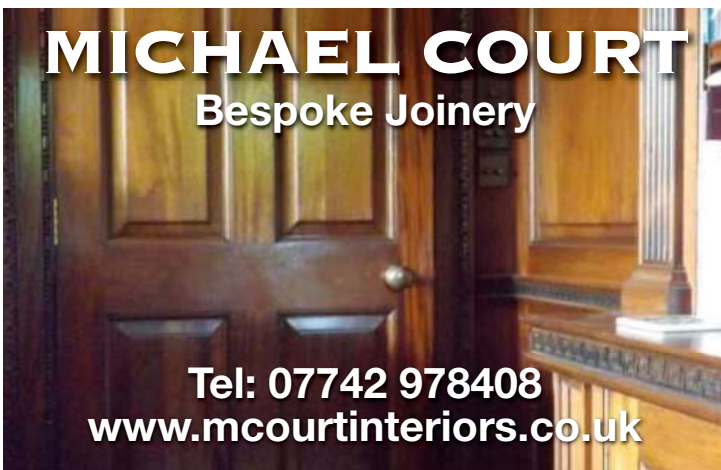
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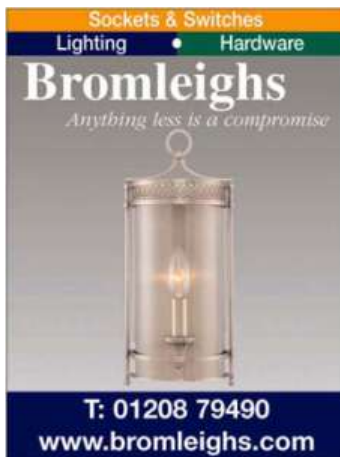
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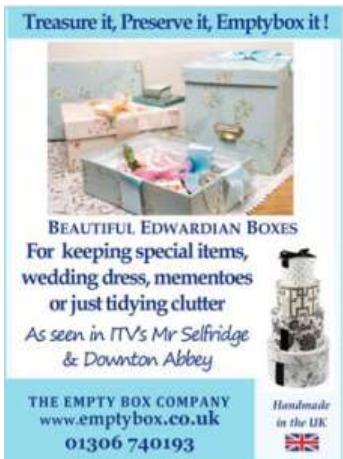


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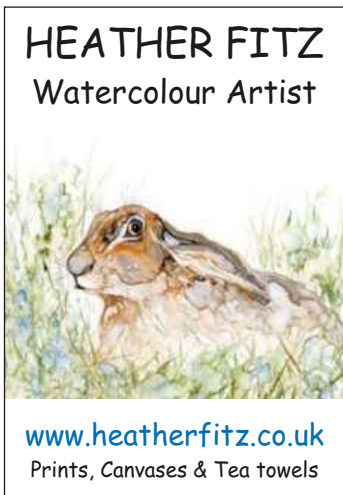
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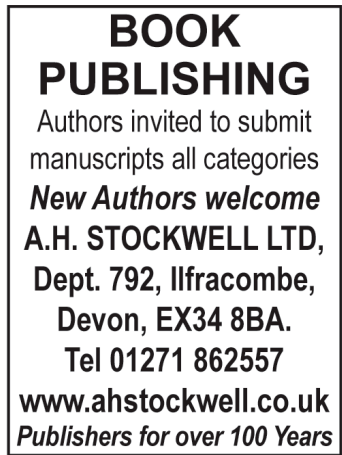


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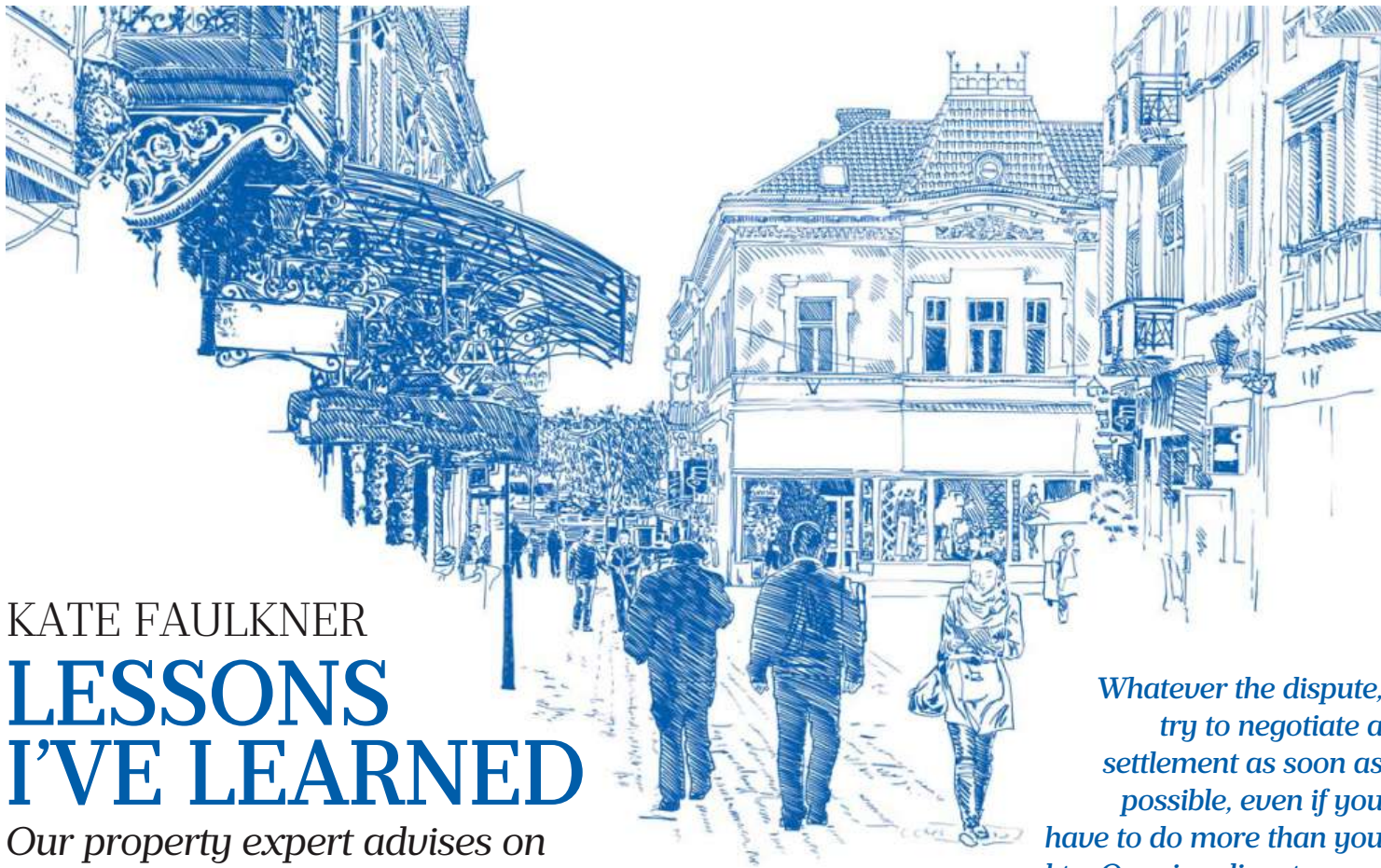
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KATE FAULKNER
**LESSONS
I'VE LEARNED**

*Our property expert advises on
disputes with neighbours*

Edited by **JESSICA PANTON**

*Whatever the dispute,
try to negotiate a
settlement as soon as
possible, even if you
have to do more than you
need to. Ongoing disputes can
be tiresome so resolve things
with some third party help*



One of the hardest things I have to deal with is when neighbours fall out over property issues, as matters can become extremely fraught.

A common concern is noise, with neighbours playing music too loud or having parties, and another is vegetation. My bugbear is trees and shrubs overhanging my garden or damaging walls and fences – especially if I'm the one who's responsible for replacing them!

Many of these problems can be solved by negotiating with the neighbours or speaking to your local authority, usually the Environmental Health Officer. They have a lot of powers under the 'statutory nuisance' ruling so they can intervene when noise, a build-up of rubbish, artificial light or smoke constantly disrupts your daily life.

If your neighbour is found to be guilty, Environmental Health can issue a 'noise abatement' order to change their ways or face legal action. If they carry on regardless, they can be fined anything from £5,000 for home

owners or up to £20,000 for a factory or business. It's much better to try to negotiate a resolution before you get to this stage, as calling in the Council may escalate the problem and prolong the dispute, which isn't in anyone's interest.

What can be more difficult to resolve are party wall disputes or needing to make repairs on your property by stepping onto the neighbour's land. Party wall disputes tend to occur when people share walls, such as within a terraced or semi-detached home. You or your neighbour may be building an extension, or creating a basement or a loft conversion, and the dust, broken tiles, bricks, scaffolding and builders are causing some disruption.

Ensure that party wall issues are dealt with quickly, or don't happen at all, by speaking to a specialist Party Wall Surveyor before work begins. He or she will draw up an agreement between you and your neighbour, so you both get an independent view of the condition of your properties and can agree who is responsible for fixing any minor or major mishaps. These can be verified by the

surveyor after the works have finished, even if it is some time later.

Finally, problems can occur when you need to access a neighbour's land to make repairs or if you share drains, guttering or drives. Ideally, there should be some 'right of access' highlighted in the legal papers and information about responsibility for shared amenities, but this isn't always so. If the neighbours won't budge, then apply for a county court judgement, which allows you to carry out the repairs. The Citizens Advice Bureau can help with this, or speak to the legal company who carried out the legals when you bought your property.

Do negotiate a settlement as soon as possible, even if you have to do more than you legally need to. Disputes can be tiresome, and you may decide to move, which could cost tens of thousands of pounds, so it's better to resolve things even if you need third party help. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors have produced a guide on party walls : <http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/consumer-guides/party-walls-guide/>

KATE FAULKNER katefaulkner.co.uk

Kate is one of the UK's leading residential property experts. She writes *Which?* Property books and regularly appears on the BBC and ITV news as well as Radio 4 and 5live. Find out more at propertychecklists.co.uk



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